



Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 4 December 2019

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

There will be a private meeting for members of the Committee at 9.30 am in Committee Room 6, Room 2006, Level 2 of the Town Hall Extension.

Access to the Council Antechamber

Public access to the Council Antechamber is on Level 2 of the Town Hall Extension, using the lift or stairs in the lobby of the Mount Street entrance to the Extension. That lobby can also be reached from the St. Peter's Square entrance and from Library Walk. **There is no public access from the Lloyd Street entrances of the Extension.**

Filming and broadcast of the meeting

Meetings of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are 'webcast'. These meetings are filmed and broadcast live on the Internet. If you attend this meeting you should be aware that you might be filmed and included in that transmission.

Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Councillors –

Sameem Ali, Alijah, Cooley, Hewitson, T Judge, Kilpatrick, Lovecy, McHale, Madeleine Monaghan, Reeves, Reid, Sadler, Stone (Chair) and Wilson

Co-opted Members -

Mr L Duffy, Mrs J Miles, and Dr W Omara

Agenda

1. Urgent Business

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

2. Appeals

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

3. Interests

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

4. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2019.

Pages
7 - 26

To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Ofsted Subgroup held on 16 October 2019 and 13 November 2019.

5. Update on School Exclusions

Report of the Director of Education and Skills

Pages
27 - 46

This report provides an update on exclusions data held internally in Manchester for 2018/19 and final Department for Education (DfE) published school exclusions data for 2017/18 with national comparisons.

6. Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) 2018/2019 Annual Report

Report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

Pages
47 - 92

This is the 2018/2019 Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing (IRO) Service for looked after children, which is required in accordance with the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and subsequent statutory guidance published by the Department for Children Schools and Families in 2010 as set out in the IRO Handbook.

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| 7. Manchester Safeguarding Partnership
Report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services | Pages
93 - 112 |
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This report provides an update to the report and presentation to the Committee on 5 February 2019, which outlined the proposals to respond to the statutory guidance contained in Chapter 4, Working Together 2018 Improving Child Protection and Safeguarding Practice for children and young people. This report details the progress since February 2019, the new arrangements and plans to continue this work.

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| 8. Overview Report
Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit | Pages
113 - 124 |
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This report provides the Committee with details of key decisions that fall within the Committee's remit and an update on actions resulting from the Committee's recommendations. The report also includes the Committee's work programme, which the Committee is asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

Information about the Committee

Scrutiny Committees represent the interests of local people about important issues that affect them. They look at how the decisions, policies and services of the Council and other key public agencies impact on the city and its residents. Scrutiny Committees do not take decisions but can make recommendations to decision-makers about how they are delivering the Our Manchester Strategy, an agreed vision for a better Manchester that is shared by public agencies across the city.

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee reviews the services provided by the Council and its partners for young people across the city including education, early years, school standards and valuing young people.

In addition to the elected members the Committee has seven co-opted member positions. These are:

- Representative of the Diocese of Manchester – Vacant
- Representative of the Diocese of Salford – Mrs Julie Miles
- Parent governor representative – To be confirmed
- Parent governor representative – Dr Walid Omara
- Parent governor representative – To be confirmed
- Secondary sector teacher representative – Mr Liam Duffy
- Primary sector teacher representative – To be confirmed

The co-opted members representing faith schools and parent governors are able to vote when the Committee deals with matters relating to education functions.

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. If you have a special interest in an item on the agenda and want to speak, tell the Committee Officer, who will pass on your request to the Chair. Groups of people will usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson. The Council wants its meetings to be as open as possible but occasionally there will be some confidential business. Brief reasons for confidentiality will be shown on the agenda sheet.

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Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council Committees can be found on the Council's website www.manchester.gov.uk

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

Joanne Roney OBE
Chief Executive
3rd Floor, Town Hall Extension,
Manchester, M60 2LA.

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

Rachel McKeon
Tel: 0161 234 4497
Email: rachel.mckeon@manchester.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 26 November 2019** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 3, Town Hall Extension (Lloyd Street Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2019

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair

Councillors Alijah, Cooley, Hewitson, T Judge, Kilpatrick, Lovecy, Reeves and Reid

Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr A Arogundade, Parent Governor Representative

Dr W Omara, Parent Governor Representative

Ms Z Stepan, Parent Governor Representative

Co-opted Non Voting Members:

Mr L Duffy, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure

Councillor Igbon, Ward Councillor for Hulme

Jeff Seneviratne, Supporter of Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Centre

Justin Watson, Young Manchester

Toni Good, Barlow Moor Community Association

Apologies:

Councillors Madeleine Monaghan and Wilson

Mrs J Miles, Representative of the Diocese of Salford

Mr R Lammas, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

CYP/19/44 Minutes

The Chair informed the Committee that this was the last meeting for Ms Stepan, Mr Arogundade and Mr Lammas, due to their terms of office as Co-opted Members finishing, and thanked them for their contributions.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2019.

CYP/19/45 Update on the Planned Manchester Healthy Weight Strategy to Tackle Obesity and Update on Progress in Delivering the Manchester Reducing Infant Mortality Strategy

The Committee received a report of the Director of the Public Health/Population Health Consultant in Public Health which provided an overview of the health data for Manchester children in relation to childhood obesity and infant mortality. Information was provided on the causes and impact of obesity and the work taking place to develop a Manchester Healthy Weight Strategy 2020-2025, which would take a whole system, partnership approach to tackling obesity in the city. The report included an update on new service models being commissioned to reduce obesity in children and their families. It also summarised the progress that had been made in

delivering the Manchester Reducing Infant Mortality Strategy following its publication in March 2019.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- Childhood obesity;
- Measuring obesity in children;
- Cause and impact of obesity;
- Developing a new Healthy Weight Strategy to tackle obesity;
- Commissioned Services - Healthy Weight;
- Obesity and safeguarding;
- Reducing infant mortality;
- Patterns and trends in infant deaths;
- Summary of Manchester Reducing Infant Mortality Strategy; and
- Progress on delivering the Reducing Infant Mortality Strategy.

The Consultant in Public Health reported that there was an error in table 2 (Infant Mortality Data for 2018 - Manchester and England) under point 9.2 and clarified that the neonatal period was 0-28 days, not 7-28 days, as stated in the table.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- What could be done to address the increase in obesity between reception and Year 6, noting that this was above the national average;
- The impact of poverty and deprivation;
- Reasons behind the increase in infant mortality;
- Drinking during pregnancy and whether the Committee could consider Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder at a future meeting;
- The impact of takeaways, particularly those close to schools, and whether there should be more regulation of this;
- The impact of smoking on infant mortality; and
- Why stillbirths were not included in the infant mortality figures.

The Consultant in Public Health advised the Committee that tackling child obesity required working not just in schools but also with families and in the community. The Commissioning Manager (Starting Well) reported that the Population Health Team had reviewed their approach to tackling child obesity, advising that Public Health England had advocated a whole system approach. The Consultant in Public Health explained that this involved a range of partners such as the Early Help Hubs, Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) and Licensing working together to tackle obesity and advised that a workshop was being planned to bring different partners together to develop a shared approach. The Manchester Healthy Weight Strategy Lead author informed Members that the Healthy Weight Strategy was due to be published in Spring 2020 and informed Members of the some of the other partners to be involved in this including businesses, transport and the Food Board.

The Commissioning Manager (Starting Well) reported that the Healthy Schools Team had a dedicated weight management project. He advised that his service had

recently commissioned this team to do some additional work focusing on reception age children and that work was also starting to take place with the 0 – 5 year age range.

The Consultant in Public Health noted the relationship between deprivation and both childhood obesity and infant mortality rates and advised that this could explain the increase in infant mortality in the city. She highlighted that poverty was linked to poor housing conditions and other factors which impacted on infant mortality rates and informed Members that this was incorporated into the strategy. The Executive Member for Children and Schools advised Members that poverty also led families towards poor food choices such as cheap takeaway meals. He informed Members about the midwife-led smoking cessation programme at St Mary's Hospital and suggested that the Committee might want to look at this in future.

In response to a Member's question, the Consultant in Public Health reported that she would contact the Member outside of the meeting to provide him with more detail on the data and analysis behind the information in the report. The Chair supported this and commented that, if there was any additional information for circulation to the wider Committee, to do this via the Scrutiny Support Officer.

The Programme Lead reported that the infant mortality rate was a national measure so officers could not change it to include stillbirths; however, she advised that the work being done in Manchester to reduce infant mortality, for example work to reduce smoking in pregnancy and to raise public awareness about changes in foetal movement, should also reduce stillbirths. She advised Members that her team was monitoring stillbirth rates, despite this not being included in the infant mortality rate figure.

Decisions

1. To support the proposed Manchester Healthy Weight Strategy to reduce obesity.
2. To receive a report on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder at a future meeting.

[Councillor Alijah declared a personal interest as a member of the steering group of the charity Safety4Sisters.]

CYP/19/46 Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Centre

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education and the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which set out the work that had been undertaken to examine the option of progressing a new operating arrangement for Ghyll Head as part of the Council's wider leisure contract.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- Background information;
- The current situation;
- The capital proposal;

- Controlling risk; and
- Next steps.

Jeff Seneviratne outlined his involvement with Ghyll Head, including as a member of the Friends of Ghyll Head. He emphasised the value of outdoor education and welcomed the work outlined in the report. He noted the references in the report to the 50% occupancy rate at Ghyll Head and informed Members that it was unrealistic to expect a 100% occupancy rate because, for example, a school could book the house for one class which would not require all the beds. He advised that the Council should consider how usage of the centre could best be measured. He commented that he hoped the centre could be used to provide outdoor education not only to children but also to families to improve their health and well-being.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- That Ghyll Head was a well-loved and valuable provision;
- Members shared positive experiences of Ghyll Head from themselves, their family members and other Manchester residents, including Our Children (Looked After Children);
- That the centre could also be used by families whose children were on the edge of care;
- That, with capital investment, Ghyll Head could be marketed commercially, at a higher rate, at weekends;
- Concern that some parents could not afford to send their children to Ghyll Head, while noting that some schools used their own funds to subsidise places;
- The importance of not changing the ethos of the centre; and
- That some schools did not use it.

The Director of Education reported that the intention for the future was that Ghyll Head would not be just a one-off positive experience but something that introduced children to an activity which they could then continue to take part in once they were back in Manchester, for example, at Debdale Outdoor Centre. She confirmed that a number of schools did subsidise places at Ghyll Head for their pupils, advising that schools could use their Pupil Premium, money given to schools to improve the attainment of disadvantaged pupils, on this. The Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Youth and Events) advised that the contracting arrangements would allow the Council to control the prices and protect prices for Manchester schools. The Director of Education commented that some schools did take their pupils to other centres which also offered similar activities but that this investment would enable Ghyll Head to compete with them.

The Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Youth and Events) reported that Ghyll Head did not currently have a dedicated website and that this was something that would need to be invested in in order for the centre to be able to attract commercial bookings. He advised Members that the ethos and values of Ghyll Head were due to its workforce and that the Council intended to protect the current workforce through this transition period while also giving the centre an element of commercial focus.

The Ward Councillor for Hulme expressed her support for the proposals in the report. She emphasised the importance of recruiting experienced staff, commenting that the centre currently had high quality, experienced staff. She reported that play and youth services and colleges also used Ghyll Head and that they should be encouraged to use it more. She also noted the proposal to establish a Stakeholder Board to oversee and govern the management of the centre and suggested that representatives from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Friends of Ghyll Head could be involved in this.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure commented that the Council wanted to increase the use of Ghyll Head by Manchester residents and that this included encouraging play and youth providers to use the centre. He reported that consideration would be given as to how to engage Members in the work of the Stakeholder Board.

Decisions

1. To support the proposals in the report wholeheartedly and to recommend to the Executive that the Council invest £1.1 million in capital to achieve this.
2. To recommend that officers look into how Ghyll Head could be used by families whose children are on the edge of care.
3. To request that consideration be given as to how Members and the Friends of Ghyll Head can be engaged in the work of the Stakeholder Board.

CYP/19/47 Youth Strategy and Engagement

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided a summary of the Our Manchester Youth Offer Strategy which replaced the Valuing Young People Strategy 2016 - 2019. It was the city's multi-sector strategic framework jointly owned by Manchester City Council, its partners and stakeholders, all of whom were responsible for making sure that young people had access to a high quality-driven youth offer that addressed both universal and targeted needs and which directly contributed to and enabled young people to grow into responsible, independent and successful adults. The Committee was invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 13 November 2019.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Our Manchester Youth Offer Strategy 2019 – 2025;
- Workshops and engagement events;
- Outcomes and success;
- Strategy document production;
- Delivery of the strategy; and
- Next steps.

The Committee watched a video produced by Members of Manchester Youth Council (MYC). The video included Youth Council Members talking about the MYC, its new election model and how MYC had helped to shape the Youth Strategy.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- To thank the young people for their contribution;
- To welcome the report;
- That Stockton Council had adopted a similar approach which had been very effective, that they had developed an action plan from this work and that it would be useful to look at some of things they had done;
- The importance of play provision;
- To request demographic information on the young people accessing youth services, particularly the youth hubs, including by ward; and
- The importance of universal youth services and of reaching out to young people who were not currently accessing youth services or communicating their views through MYC.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure informed Members how MYC was being developed as a membership organisation which all young people could join and get involved in to different levels. He advised that it was important for all young people to have a mechanism to raise any issues that concerned them and that the Council was creating a website through which any young person could raise an issue.

The Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth) agreed that play provision was important, informing Members that there were over 100 play areas in Manchester parks. He reported that over the previous 12 months approximately £1.3 million had been invested in commissioning play activities across the city and it was hoped that this could be increased, with Young Manchester playing a key role in bringing in additional funding.

The Head of Youth Strategy reported that Manchester had a higher level of youth engagement than other areas of the country, citing that 50.3% of Manchester young people had taken part in the Make Your Mark ballot, compared to 18.6% nationally, but that the Council wanted to improve this further. She advised Members that her service was working to reach young people who did not currently access youth services or visit other facilities such as libraries by using detached youth workers to talk to young people where they were. She agreed that Stockton Council had a good reputation for their Youth Strategy work and informed Members that her service was working to put together an action plan for the Youth Strategy, which would be wide-ranging and involve work with other services.

Decisions

1. To request demographic information on the young people accessing youth services, particularly the youth hubs, including by ward.
2. To endorse the recommendations to the Executive that:

The Executive is recommended to:

1. To agree, subject to budget, the continuation of investment into Young Manchester for the next 3 years, on the basis that Young Manchester uses this as leverage to grow external investment to support the sector.
2. To consider and approve the adoption of the proposed vision, strategic themes and 'We Wills' to deliver the Strategy over the next 3 years.
3. Delegate authority to the Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth) in consultation with the Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure to complete the production of the strategy document for communication with young people, partners and the Youth Sector.
4. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive & City Treasurer in consultation with the City Solicitor and Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and the Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure to finalise the contract value following conclusion of the VAT assessment to ensure that the contract fee is delivered within the available budget.
5. Delegate authority to the City Solicitor to enter into, complete and execute any documents or agreements necessary to give effect to the recommendations in this report.

[Councillor Stone declared a personal interest as a trustee of HOME.]

[Councillor Alijah declared a personal interest as chair of the Hideaway Youth Project.]

CYP/19/48 Youth and Play Services - Young Manchester

The Committee received a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which provided an overview of the progress of Young Manchester, an independent youth and play charity, and its contract with the Council to commission the city's Youth and Play Fund Programme. It presented an update on progress made since the establishment of the fund in April 2018, focusing on outcomes for children and young people and the growth and development of the city's youth and play sector.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- Background to the Youth and Play Fund;
- Impact and outcomes;
- Feedback from children and young people;
- Further investment in children and young people;
- Building a national platform for Manchester; and
- Youth and Play Fund 2020.

The Ward Councillor for Hulme welcomed what had been achieved despite the budget cuts. She emphasised the importance of tackling knife crime and requested further information on the next commissioning round.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions

were:

- The importance of universal youth services;
- That a lack of facilities such as toilets and changing facilities in parks presented a barrier for parents and grandparents wanting to take children to the park, that better information could make people aware of facilities in park cafes but that, where available, these were still only open for limited hours;
- How funding could be identified for work such as repairing swings in parks; and
- How smaller organisations which did not have expertise in writing bids could be supported to obtain funding.

The Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth) informed Members about a new website which was being developed which would provide information on all youth and play services across the city and which would be integrated with the MCR Active website. He advised Members that this would enable the Council and Young Manchester to have a better understanding on where there were gaps in provision. The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure outlined how this information would be gathered at a local level.

The Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth) reported that individual park plans were being developed for each park to identify the highest priority work that needed to be done in that park, following which sources of funding could be identified. He advised Members that the Council was releasing £12.5 million to invest in its parks and that his service was looking at ways to reduce demand on the parks budget and to generate income.

Justin Watson from Young Manchester reported that part of his organisation's role was as an infrastructure organisation, supporting organisations, particularly smaller community organisations, so that they were in a better position to access funding, not just from Young Manchester but from other sources. He informed the Committee that Young Manchester had just launched the new Youth and Play Fund 2020 and he offered to share information on this with Members, as well as more details of the rationale for previous decisions which had been made about funding.

Toni Good, a Youth Worker from Barlow Moor Community Association, outlined what her organisation delivered and how it and the young people she worked with had benefited from working with Young Manchester. She informed Members that the Youth and Play Workers in her organisation did not have expertise in areas such as art and drama but that through the network meetings organised by Young Manchester they had been able to make links with people with that expertise and provide new opportunities for their young people. She also informed Members about a social action project their young people had taken part in through which they had been able to achieve some of the improvements they had wanted to see in their local area. She reported that this had made them feel that they were being listened to and keener to make their voices heard in future.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure reported that this year's Make Your Mark ballot had identified youth violence as the top priority for young people. He advised the Committee that this needed a multi-agency approach and assured

Members that the Council would play its part in this.

The Chair noted that the report recommended that the Committee receive a further report in November 2021 but requested that this be received in November 2020 instead.

Decisions

1. To recommend that a further report be brought back to Members in November 2020, which focuses on qualitative and quantitative data, evidence of impact, outcomes and young people's feedback relating to the Youth and Play Fund 2020/2022.
2. To note the offer from Justin Watson from Young Manchester to share information on the new Youth and Play Fund 2020 with Members, as well as more details of the rationale for previous decisions which had been made about funding.
3. To request that clear information on the availability of toilet facilities, for example, in park cafes, be included on signage in parks.

[Councillor Alijah declared a personal interest as chair of the Hideaway Youth Project.]

CYP/19/49 Overview Report

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained key decisions within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

A Member asked for information on concealed pregnancy to be included in a future report. Another Member noted that the Committee had requested a report on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder under an earlier agenda item.

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme, subject to the above amendments.

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2019

Present:

Councillor Lovecy – in the Chair

Councillor Stone

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools

Apologies:

Councillors Hewitson, Madeleine Monaghan and Reid

CYP/OSG/19/10 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2019.

CYP/OSG/19/11 Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Schools

Liz Clarke, Senior School Quality Assurance Officer, informed Members that she would be the lead officer for the Subgroup in future, replacing Simon Taylor.

The Subgroup received a list of all Manchester schools which had been inspected since the last meeting and the judgements awarded. The Senior School Quality Assurance Officer provided an overview of the list, clarifying that Lancasterian School had previously been judged as outstanding and was now judged as good.

The Chair welcomed the overall picture from the recent judgements, commenting that Manchester primary schools had already improved and that the recent inspections showed that secondary schools were now also improving. She acknowledged the hard work of the Quality Assurance Team in supporting schools to achieve these results.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Senior School Quality Assurance Officer reported that there were still a number of schools which had not been inspected for ten years or more and that, under the new inspection framework, it would be more difficult for them to retain their outstanding judgement. She informed the Subgroup that more information of the new framework and what it would mean for Manchester schools would be included in the Members' briefing session taking place on 20 November 2019. She outlined the work her team was doing to prepare schools for the new framework.

The Chair commented that all Councillors should be encouraged to be involved with their local schools and, where local schools were struggling, it was important for Ward Councillors to come to the Ofsted Subgroup meetings where their local school was being discussed, to understand what was being done to address the issues and to be able to speak to parents and local residents about it.

A Member asked for an update on St Matthew's High School, Newall Green High School and the Grange School, which had been placed in special measures.

The Senior School Quality Assurance Officer for north Manchester reported that St Matthew's High School was receiving support from the Quality Assurance Team and from a school in Salford and was making positive improvements. He informed Members that there had been a culture change within the school and positive feedback from students and parents. He praised the leadership of the school, including the headteacher and the Interim Executive Board which had been put in place. He reported that the last Ofsted monitoring inspection for Newall Green High School had indicated that the academy trust was moving the school in the right direction, that there had been a change in culture and that students felt they were getting a better education. He reported that, while St Matthew's High School was still attracting a high number of new pupils, Newall Green High School in Wythenshawe was affected by a fall in pupil numbers.

The Senior School Quality Assurance Officer informed Members that the Grange was now part of the Prospere Trust, another of whose schools had recently been judged as outstanding. She assured Members that the Trust would be working hard to secure improvements at the Grange and advised Members that the Trust engaged positively with the Council.

The Executive Member for Children and Schools informed Members about the Wythenshawe Education Board, which was made up of Wythenshawe primary schools and high schools and other partners in the area, such as Manchester Airport. He reported that one of the issues for Wythenshawe schools was that Wythenshawe was on the border of other local authority areas which were attracting Manchester children to their schools. He advised Members that one of the aims of the Board was to address this through challenging perceptions about Manchester schools.

A Member who was also the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee reported that the Committee was due to receive information about the Wythenshawe Education Board in a future report. The Chair of the Ofsted Subgroup requested that this be considered by the Subgroup instead and that the Subgroup also receive a report giving an overview of the support available to schools and early years settings and how well this was working.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School, which had been judged as outstanding. The Chair commented that this was a really good report and welcomed the way the school was working with parents. A Member welcomed the benefits of pupils visiting places in the community, such as cafés, museums, tourist attractions and parks. The Chair commented that this enabled pupils to become accustomed to visiting a range of venues and benefited their family life. The Executive Member for Children and Schools highlighted the effective use of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) within the school. The Chair praised the caring but focused ethos of the school.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Manchester Communication Academy, which had been judged as good. A Member commented that it was a very good report overall with a couple of areas of concern outlined in the

summary, in particular in relation to pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and the number of exclusions. He asked what was being done to address the issues highlighted in the report. The Senior School Quality Assurance Officer for north Manchester informed Members that the school was developing its own internal alternative provision pathway to support pupils at risk of being excluded or who were persistently absent. He reported that the school had strong links with local primary schools and was working with them to improve the transition from primary to secondary school. He advised Members that the school now also had a positive working relationship with the Council. The Executive Member for Children and Schools informed the Subgroup that the Head of Manchester Communication Academy had joined the Inclusion Strategy Steering Group. The Senior School Quality Assurance Officer for north Manchester informed Members that the school had received funding to research school exclusions and how they could be avoided and that it would share this best practice across the city. Members discussed the impact of trauma-informed approaches being piloted at another local school and the potential for this to be used more widely. The Chair welcomed the changes made at Manchester Communication Academy, the proactive approach, demonstrated by the Family Zone, and the improved relationship with the Council.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Moston Fields Primary School, which had been judged as good. A Member commented that Members of the Ofsted Subgroup had carried out a visit to the school, shortly after the current Headteacher had started in her role and when the school was still judged as requires improvement. He reported that he had been impressed by the Headteacher and welcomed the good progress that had been made. He advised Members that he had no doubt that the outcomes for pupils would improve. In response to a question from the Chair, the Senior School Quality Assurance Officer for north Manchester reported that there was a strong relationship between schools in north Manchester.

Decisions

1. To note that Liz Clarke will become the lead officer for the Subgroup.
2. To request that the Subgroup receive information on the Wythenshawe Education Board at a future meeting, rather than this going to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.
3. To request that the Subgroup receive a report giving an overview of the support available to schools and early years settings and how well this is working.
4. To write to Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School, Manchester Communication Academy and Moston Fields Primary School to congratulate them on their recent Ofsted reports.

CYP/OSG/19/12 Ofsted Inspections of Daycare Providers

The Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Early Years) provided the Subgroup with an overview of the current situation within the Early Years sector in Manchester. She reported that 97% of inspected group childcare providers and 87% of inspected childminders in the city had been judged as good or outstanding and outlined some of the key areas for further development highlighted in Ofsted inspection reports, including the need to strengthen the professional development of staff, to strengthen the key person system and to ensure children received appropriate levels of challenge. She outlined some of the changes to the Ofsted Framework and reported that her team was arranging briefing sessions and other support to help to prepare early years providers for this.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Kids Start, which had been judged as outstanding. Members commented that this was a very good report. The Executive Member for Children and Schools informed Members that he had visited the setting and was not surprised that it had been judged as outstanding. He praised the way they engaged with other services such as Early Help and Wellcomm Screening to ensure children received the support they needed and how they proactively worked to support children's transition to primary school. He commented that the manager there had spoken very highly of the Council's Quality Assurance Team and he thanked the team for their work.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for the Lighthouse Centre, which had been judged as good. A Member commented that it was a very good report but asked what was being done to address the finding that "staff miss opportunities to further develop children's critical-thinking skills during their play and learning." The Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Early Years) reported that her team would work with the setting to address this. In response to a question from the Chair, she reported that there was a peer support programme where settings which were particularly skilled in different areas such as developing the outdoors or SEND could support other settings.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Tiddlywinks Day Nursery in Ancoats, which had been judged as outstanding. The Chair welcomed that the nursery worked with other settings. A Member commented that Members of the Ofsted Subgroup had visited Tiddlywinks and had been very impressed with the director and the environment at the nursery. The Chair praised the way the nursery provided stimulating activities to develop children's learning.

Decision

To write to Kids Start, the Lighthouse Centre and Tiddlywinks Day Nursery in Ancoats to congratulate them on their recent Ofsted reports.

CYP/OSG/19/13 Terms of Reference and Work Programme

The Subgroup reviewed the terms of reference for the Subgroup and the work programme.

The Chair clarified that, for the report on childminders scheduled for a future meeting, the Subgroup wanted an overview of the current picture including what support was offered to childminders and, if possible, childminders' views on the support they wanted. She commented that a lot of young children were cared for by childminders but that the fragmented nature of this type of provision presented a challenge for the Council in supporting them. She requested further information on how this was being managed, what challenges there were, whether there were any associations of childminders that the team could use as an intermediary and any different ways that other local authorities were supporting childminders.

Members requested to visit Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School and Manchester Communication Academy, including the Family Zone. The Senior School Quality Assurance Officer for north Manchester suggested that Members visit Abbott Community Primary School, which had recently moved from good to outstanding, to which the Chair agreed.

Decisions

1. To request that visits be arranged to Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School, Manchester Communication Academy, including the Family Zone, and Abbott Community Primary School.
2. To agree the work programme, subject to the additional items agreed at the meeting.

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Ofsted Subgroup

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019

Present:

Councillor Lovecy – in the Chair

Councillors Hewitson, Madeleine Monaghan, Reid and Stone

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools

CYP/OSG/19/14 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2019.

CYP/OSG/19/15 Lily Lane Primary School Update

The Subgroup received an oral update on the progress of Lily Lane Primary School, following its inspection in October 2018. Officers informed Members that support had been offered to the leadership team at the school to help improve those areas that had been identified as requiring improvement. The Senior School Quality Assurance Officer stated that additional quality assurance visits had been undertaken to monitor progress at the school and he reported that positive improvements had been witnessed, and he was confident that this would be reflected in future Ofsted inspections and subsequent judgements.

Decision

To note the oral report.

CYP/OSG/19/16 Ofsted Inspections of Manchester Schools

The Subgroup received a list of all Manchester schools which had been inspected since the last meeting and the judgements awarded. The Senior School Quality Assurance Officer provided an overview of the list, commenting that no inspections were undertaken in the first week of term starting in September. She informed the Subgroup that seven school inspections had been undertaken to date, with four reports published at the time of the agenda being published for this meeting.

Members commented that the new format of Ofsted reports was significantly shorter and lacking the detail that had been provided in previous reports. Members commented on the use of language throughout the reports, stating that in places it was ambiguous and questioned whether it was the most appropriate to use. Members also debated the application of phonics as an appropriate method for the teaching of reading and writing that was a common theme throughout the reports. Officers responded that this was always used in an age appropriate manner to encourage and support the development of reading and writing.

The Senior School Quality Assurance Officer acknowledged the comments from Members regarding the brevity of the reports and stated that schools did receive a more detailed and comprehensive oral report from inspectors following the conclusion of an inspection. Officers reported that schools were always recommended to complete their own comprehensive notes from those meetings, as the level of detail that was relayed at those meetings was not included in the final published Ofsted report. Officers also commented that the language used and format of reports had been agreed following consultation, adding that all reports were quality assured both locally and regionally by Ofsted prior to their publication.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Abbey Hey Primary Academy which had been judged as Good. Members noted the positive comments throughout the report and a member of the Subgroup, who was also a Ward Councillor for the area in which the school was located, commented on the positive contribution the Principal had made to the school. Officers acknowledged this comment and informed the Subgroup that the Principal had offered to share his knowledge and experience of the inspection process with other schools, which was welcomed.

The Executive Member for Children and Schools paid tribute to the staff at the school and reported that the school worked very well with parents and contributed positively to the local community. He said he had witnessed this when he had visited the school; however, unfortunately this important element was not captured in the new reporting format.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Benchill Primary School which had been judged as Good. Members welcomed the report noting the many positive examples of good practice that had been identified by the Inspectors, particularly in regard to the children's enjoyment of reading.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Collyhurst Nursery School which had been judged as Outstanding. Members commented that this was an extremely positive report and demonstrated the invaluable contribution nurseries could have on children. The Executive Member for Children and Schools stated that he would be meeting with the nursery school in the near future to discuss the long term funding of the provision and to understand how best the City Council could support them in the national campaign to secure better funding.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Longsight Community Primary School which had been judged as continuing to be Good. Members commented upon the very positive report that had identified the significant and positive contribution the school had in the local community. Members specifically noted the comment that described children loving their lessons, stating that this was indicative of dedicated staff and a well-led school. A Member commented that the school was at the heart of the local community and he paid tribute to the Headteacher. A Member recommended that a visit to the school should be arranged for Members for the Subgroup and that an invitation also be sent to the Ward Councillors.

Decisions

1. To write to all of the Schools considered by the Subgroup at this meeting to congratulate them on their recent Ofsted report.
2. To arrange a visit to Longsight Community Primary School for Members of the Subgroup and that an invitation also be sent to the Ward Councillors.

CYP/OSG/19/17 Ofsted Inspections of Daycare Providers

The Senior Quality Assurance Officer (Early Years) provided the Subgroup with an overview of the current situation within the Early Years sector in Manchester.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Brighter Beginnings Day Nursery which had been judged as Good. The Chair stated that she welcomed the report which demonstrated that improvements were being made. She further noted that this was a large provision and that the report demonstrated the importance of an effective leadership within daycare settings.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Milkyway Preschool Playgroup which had been judged as Good. Members welcomed the report and the reported improvements at the setting when compared to the previous inspection rating. Members commented that this was a smaller setting and might benefit from establishing links with the local Longsight Community Primary School. Officers acknowledged this comment.

The Subgroup considered the recent Ofsted inspection report for Wmb Born2win Day Nursery which had been judged as Good. Members welcomed the report, noting that this was newly registered nursery.

Decision

To write to all of the Daycare providers considered by the Subgroup at this meeting to congratulate them on their recent Ofsted report.

CYP/OSG/19/18 Terms of Reference and Work Programme

The Subgroup reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Subgroup and the Work Programme. The Chair requested the reports entitled 'Support to Schools and Early Years Settings' and 'Ofsted Inspections of Childminders' be submitted for consideration at the meeting of 22 January 2020.

A Member who was also the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee recommended that the report entitled 'Wythenshawe Education Board' be referred to an appropriate meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, rather than the Ofsted Subgroup. The Chair endorsed this recommendation.

Decision

To approve the Terms of Reference and Work Programme, subject to the above amendments.

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 4 December 2019

Subject: Update on School Exclusions

Report of: Director of Education and Skills

Summary

The report will provide an update on exclusions data held internally in Manchester for 2018/19 and final Department for Education (DfE) published school exclusions data for 2017/18 with national comparisons.

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the contents of this report and in particular the reduction in exclusion in provisional 2018/19 data.

Wards Affected: All

Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes (if applicable)

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Reducing exclusions across the city will contribute to improving educational outcomes and to Manchester's young people becoming happy, safe and highly skilled.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Improving educational outcomes and reducing the exclusion rate amongst the Manchester school population is essential for young people to gain qualifications and contribute to Manchester's economic success.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Vulnerable groups including FSM and SEND as well as certain ethnic groups are over represented in exclusions. Reducing exclusions is a key priority to ensure all young people have the best possible opportunity to succeed.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	An improving school system will make Manchester an attractive place to live and work. Curriculum emphasis on climate change and low carbon will engage young people.

A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	An improving school system will make Manchester an attractive place to live and work. An improving education system contributes to generating future growth by a highly skilled workforce and young people committed to reducing the carbon footprint.
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Contact Officers:

Name: Amanda Corcoran
 Position: Director of Education
 Telephone: 0161 234-7484
 E-mail: a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Isobel Booler
 Position: Head of School Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND
 Telephone: 07774005731
 E-mail: i.booler@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection)

- Update on Exclusions to Children and Young person's Scrutiny, 27th February 2018
- Children and Young Person's Scrutiny report on Manchester's Promoting Inclusion and Preventing Exclusion Strategy, May 2019
- Manchester Inclusion Strategy, November 2019
- 'Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England.' Statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion. September 2017.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide full time education for excluded pupils from the sixth day following the Headteacher's recommendation to permanently exclude.
- 1.2 This report summarises the trends in permanent and fixed term exclusions from the 2018/19 academic year. It also includes the latest available national and statistical neighbour data from the 2017/18 academic year. The DfE will publish 2018/19 exclusions data in July 2020.
- 1.3 Reducing both permanent and fixed term exclusions is a long standing priority for Manchester Children's Services with a commitment to ensure improved experiences and outcomes for all children and young people through 'Our Manchester, Our Children: Manchester's Children and Young People's Plan 2016-2020; building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people.'
- 1.4 However in 2017/18, following a four year increase in permanent exclusions there was an acknowledgement of the need to approach reducing exclusions differently and a commitment to a multi-agency response.
- 1.5 In April 2018 the first multi agency workshop was held with a focus on reducing exclusions. Over the following year Manchester's Inclusion Strategy has been developed; this has been informed by the outcomes of workshops and discussions with key partners including Head Teachers, Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs), designated teachers, governors, Children's Social Care, Early Help leads, CAMHS, Greater Manchester Police, Youth Justice managers and officers, Greater Manchester and Manchester THRIVE programme leads, parents, carers and children & young people.
- 1.6 Manchester's Inclusion Strategy was launched on November 8th 2019.
- 1.7 Throughout the development of the strategy there has been an increased focus on the use of exclusion. The unvalidated data for Manchester in 2018/19 shows a significant decrease in the use of permanent exclusion.

2.0 Context

The 2018/19 exclusions data shows that the number of permanent exclusions has fallen to a point lower than it has been for the past four years. This reduction is due to a number of actions taken which includes:

2.1 Widespread multi-agency consultation on the Inclusion Strategy including a number of workshops.

The reduction in exclusions would appear to indicate that even before the formal launch of the strategy different interventions and approaches are being used to prevent young people from being excluded. A series of workshops has highlighted the over representation of vulnerable groups in

exclusions including those children identified with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and workshops and consultation have also highlighted the over representation of pupils excluded from school in the Youth Justice Service. These workshops and discussions appear to have increased reflective practice and have impacted positively in the reduction or permanent exclusions.

The consultation and workshops have also provided an opportunity to share examples of strong leadership and good practice which already exists in many Manchester early years' settings, schools and Post 16 provisions where there is robust evidence of strong inclusive practice.

2.2 The Director of Education working with both the primary strategy group and high school heads to engage with schools to focus on reducing exclusions in the city.

The Director of Education attends all primary strategy group meetings, high school headteacher meetings, special school headteacher meetings and has engaged the school system with consultation on the Inclusion Strategy and the importance in increasing the consistency of inclusion across schools.

2.3 Establishment of a 'Support and Challenge' Board

Schools and Multi Academy Trusts with high exclusion rates have been invited to a Support and Challenge Board with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Education. This has provided an opportunity for school leaders to explain their plan to both improve educational outcomes and reduce exclusions.

All schools and Multi Academy Trust who have been invited to a Support and Challenge Board have seen a reduction in the use of exclusions and a commitment to work with Manchester City Council to promote inclusion. An outcome of the Support and Challenge meetings has been the development of a multi agency 'Team Around the School' approach in a number of schools.

2.4 Multi Agency Team Around the School

In 2018/19 the model of 'Team around the school' was developed to respond to a number of presenting issues including schools which have been identified as having a high number of fixed term or permanent exclusions. The 'Team around the school' meetings have included colleagues from social care, early help, attendance, education, CAHMs, educational Psychologist. Each 'Team around the school' has been welcomed by school or academy leaders and multi agency actions have been agreed.

2.5 Improving Consistency of Inclusion in Mainstream schools

Manchester City Council has employed an experienced Special School Headteacher to work with identified mainstream schools to focus on reducing exclusions for both SEND support and those children with an EHCP

plan. This approach is having a proven impact and has led to positive comments about SEND and inclusion in school Ofsted reports.

2.6 Early Help practitioners working with families where children experienced Fixed term exclusions

The Early Help team have developed a successful targeted offer of support from the Early Help Parenting Team for young people at risk of exclusion. This includes enrolment on Talking Teens, a parenting workshop which helps manage disruptive teenage behaviour, and also the delivery of a Nurture programme which focuses on the emotional health of the parent and child.

There is a positive impact in reducing fixed terms exclusions through these Early Help interventions. The evaluation shows that 16% of families whose children had experienced fixed term exclusions from school, 81% had seen these issues improved in the period 12 months after intervention. Beyond 12-months, only 7% of those who improved had fixed term exclusions again. Additionally, 2% of the cohort had been permanently excluded in the lead up to an intervention, all of these individuals received no further exclusions following Early Help intervention.

While prevention of exclusion will always be the focus of Early Help, there is also support for excluded pupils through the Early Help Inclusion team. This is a team of five Early Help practitioners and one team leader working alongside primary and secondary PRUs. The team provides whole family support. The work in the secondary PRU focuses on reducing the risk of a young person becoming involved in crime. The team at the primary PRU has been in place for 18 months and several pupils have been supported to return to mainstream as a result of the partnership.

2.7 Improving Communication and Language skills

Manchester Schools Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND team commissioned Speech and Language Therapy service in 2018 to deliver training for primary and secondary schools in Manchester, with the aim of developing a network of ELKLAN champions. There is good evidence from previous ELKLAN training delivered at Bridgelea School and the Youth Justice service, that improving children and young people's communication skills improves their emotional wellbeing and reduces the likelihood that poor behaviour becomes their method of communication.

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) funding for Inclusion has been used to fund additional ELKLAN as this has had proven impact and research links speech and language difficulties with the Youth Justice population. Since April 2019, staff from 50 primary schools have either completed an ELKLAN course or started on the autumn 2019 course. Since September 2018 39 staff from 18 secondary schools and 4 staff from 3 colleges have either completed the course or started the autumn 2019 course. Evaluations of the programme which demonstrate significant impact on staff confidence and practice, children and young people's progress, behaviour and resilience.

2.8 Trauma Informed Approaches

There has also been a focus on rolling out training and information on different trauma informed approaches. This has included work on awareness of ACES in a school in Harpurhey and also in Wythenshawe. In addition, the Virtual School has facilitated training on Trauma Informed Approaches for Designated Teachers.

3.0 Summary of Permanent Exclusions 2018/19

- 3.1 The percentage of permanent exclusions in Manchester in 2018/19 was 0.10% which is better than the 2017/18 results for Manchester (0.16%) and the same as the national (0.10%) results for 2017/18. This shows a reduction in the rate of permanent exclusions for the first time since 2011/12.
- 3.2 The number of permanent exclusions from Manchester schools in 2018/19 was 89, a decrease of 44 compared with 2017/18. This has been as a result of a 28.7% decrease in the number of permanent exclusions from secondary schools; from 108 to 77. The number of permanent exclusions from primary schools in 2018/19 halved in comparison with 2017/18 (from 25 to 12).
- 3.3 There continue to be higher proportions of pupils excluded from vulnerable groups, such as those eligible for free school meals (FSM) and pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The 2018/19 Manchester exclusion rates are lower than the national 2017/18 rates for pupils eligible for FSM; Manchester is 0.21% in comparison with 0.28%. However, rates are higher for pupils receiving SEN support in Manchester than nationally; 0.42% compared with 0.34%.
- 3.4 The most common reason nationally and in Manchester for permanent exclusion was persistent disruptive behaviour. In Manchester, this was 24.7% of all permanent exclusions compared with 34% nationally. The second most common reason in Manchester was physical assault against an adult, accounting for 13.5% of permanent exclusions, while the third most common reason was verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult, at 11.2%. Nationally, the second most common reason was physical assault against a pupil at 13.1%, while the third most common reason was physical assault against an adult, at 10.7%.

4.0 Summary of Fixed term Exclusions 2018/19

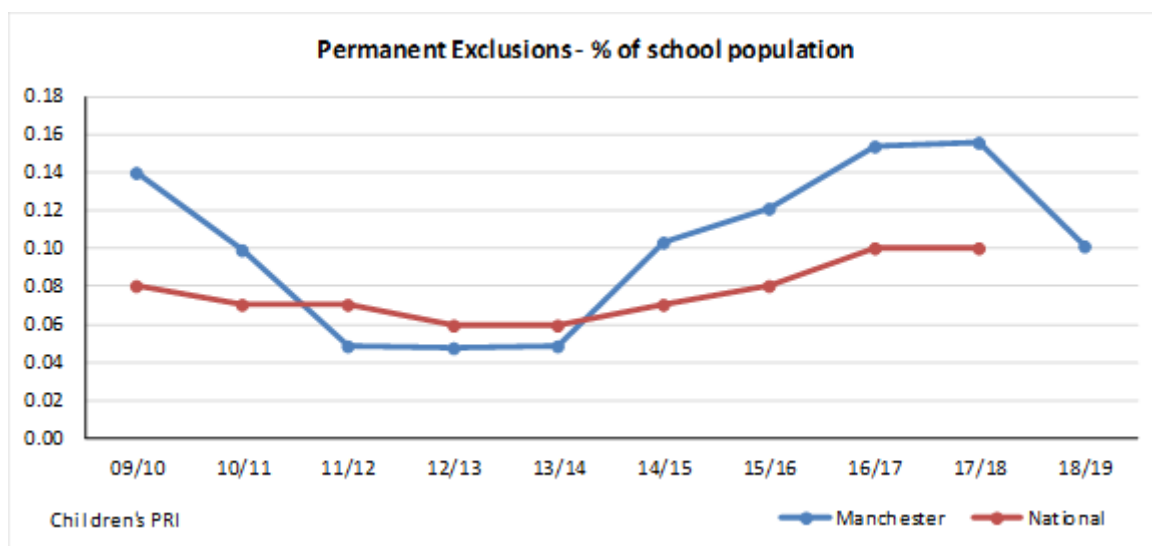
Following the decline in the percentage of fixed term exclusions from 2010/11 to 2012/13 and the increase up until 2015/16, there has been a sharp increase in 2018/19 (from 5.25% to 7.22%). This resulted in 2,371 more days lost to education in 2018/19 than in 2017/18.

- 4.1 The percentage of fixed term exclusions in Manchester in 2018/19 was 7.22%, which is higher than the national average for 2017/18 of 5.08%.
- 4.2 The number of fixed term exclusions from Manchester schools in 2018/19 was 6,319; This amounts to 1,824 more than the 4,495 recorded in 2017/18.

- 4.3 As with permanent exclusions, there are higher rates of fixed term exclusion amongst vulnerable groups. Manchester exclusion rates for pupils with at least one fixed term exclusion who are eligible for FSM is higher than the national figure (5.56% compared with 5.42%) as well as for pupils with SEN support (7.8% compared with 6.09%) and those pupils with an EHCP (8.45% compared with 6.43%).
- 4.4 The most common reason for fixed term exclusions in Manchester, was persistent disruptive behaviour (26.3%), followed by verbal abuse of threatening behaviour towards an adult and physical assault against a pupil. Nationally, for 2017/18, the three most common reasons for fixed term exclusions were the same.

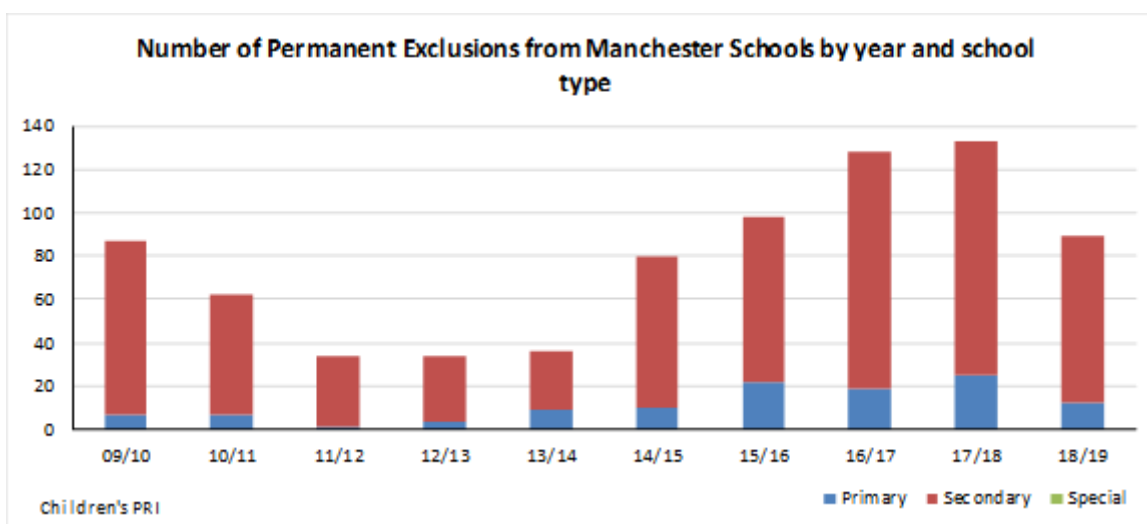
5.0 Permanent Exclusions 2018/19 Analysis

- 5.1 There were 89 permanent exclusions from Manchester schools in 2018/19, a decrease of 44 compared with the number of exclusions in 2017/18. The percentage of pupils permanently excluded in 2018/19 was 0.10%, 0.06 percentage points lower than in 2017/18. Nationally, 0.10% of pupils were permanently excluded in 2017/18, the same as in 2016/17. This means that the rate of permanent exclusions in Manchester for 2018/19 has reached the national average for 2017/18. Graph 1 shows the ten year trend for the rate of exclusions in Manchester and nationally. The graph shows a sharp decline in the percentage of pupils permanently excluded from 2009/10 to 2011/12, with the rate levelling out to 2013/14, followed by an increase to 2017/18. Nationally there was a small steady decline from 2009/10 to 2012/13. The percentage rates then started to increase again slightly in 2014/15, until 2016/17 where they have remained static.



Graph 1

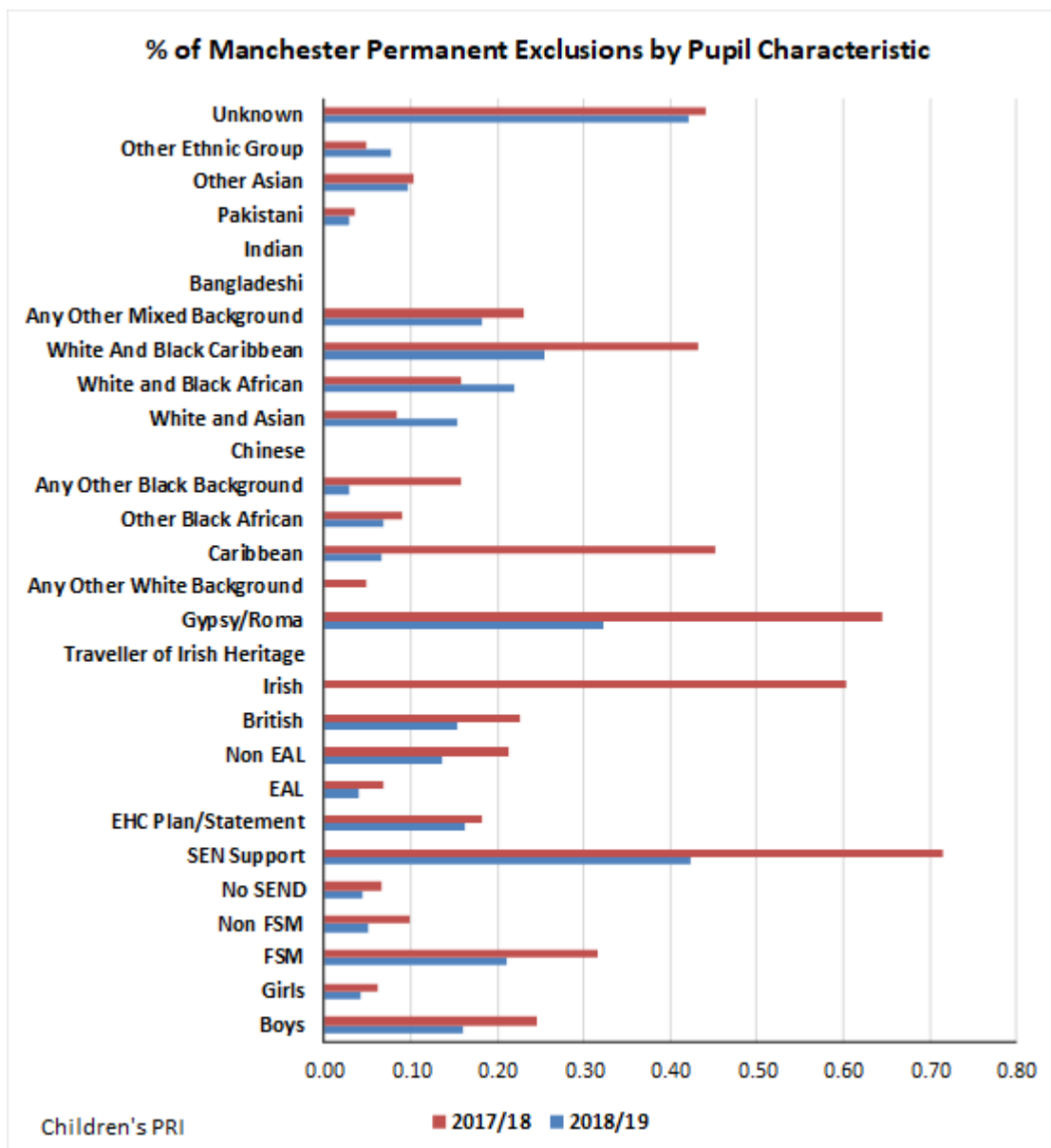
- 5.2 The decrease in the overall number of permanent exclusions in 2018/19 is due to a decrease of 31 exclusions from secondary schools, as well as a decrease of 13 exclusions from primary schools. Graph 2 shows the ten year trend for the number of permanent exclusions by phase of Manchester school.



Graph 2

- 5.3 There continue to be some big differences between pupil groups that are excluded. Graph 3 shows the proportion of pupils in the main pupil groups in Manchester that have been permanently excluded in 2018/19, compared with the 2017/18 Manchester rates.
- 5.4 Boys are more likely to be excluded than girls. Of the 89 permanent exclusions, 71 (79.8%) were boys compared with 18 (20.2%) girls. The reduction in permanent exclusions for boys (33.6%) is slightly higher than girls (30.8%), compared with 2017/18. Out of the 12 primary school exclusions, 3 were girls. Nationally, in 2017/18, boys continue to be three times more likely to be excluded than girls, while the 2018/19 Manchester results shows that boys are almost four times more likely to be excluded than girls.
- 5.5 The 2018/19 data for Manchester shows a reduction in the rate of permanent exclusions amongst pupils with SEND and for pupils eligible for FSM.
- 5.6 Pupils with SEND are more likely to be excluded than their peers, with 52 (58.4%) of the pupils permanently excluded having SEND in 2018/19. However, this difference has reduced in comparison with 2017/18, when 84 (63.2%) of the pupils permanently excluded had SEND. Pupils with an EHC plan are four times more likely to be excluded than pupils with no SEN, in comparison with two and a half times more likely in 2017/18. Nationally, in 2017/18, they were over two and a half times more likely. Pupils with SEN support are 10 and a half times more likely to be excluded than pupils with no SEN, similar to 2017/18. Nationally, in 2017/18, they were over five and a half times more likely.
- 5.7 Pupils eligible for FSM in January 2019 are more than four times more likely to be excluded than those not eligible, in comparison with three times more likely in the previous year. Nationally, in 2017/18, pupils eligible for FSM are four times more likely to be excluded than those who are not eligible for FSM.
- 5.8 Within the ethnic groups, the highest proportion of permanent exclusions is for pupils from a Gypsy/Roma background, although this only relates to one

exclusion. The next highest proportion was for pupils from a mixed White and Black Caribbean background (the actual number of permanent exclusions amongst this group was 6). Nationally, in 2017/18, Gypsy/Roma pupils had the highest proportion of permanent exclusions, followed by pupils of Traveller of Irish heritage.

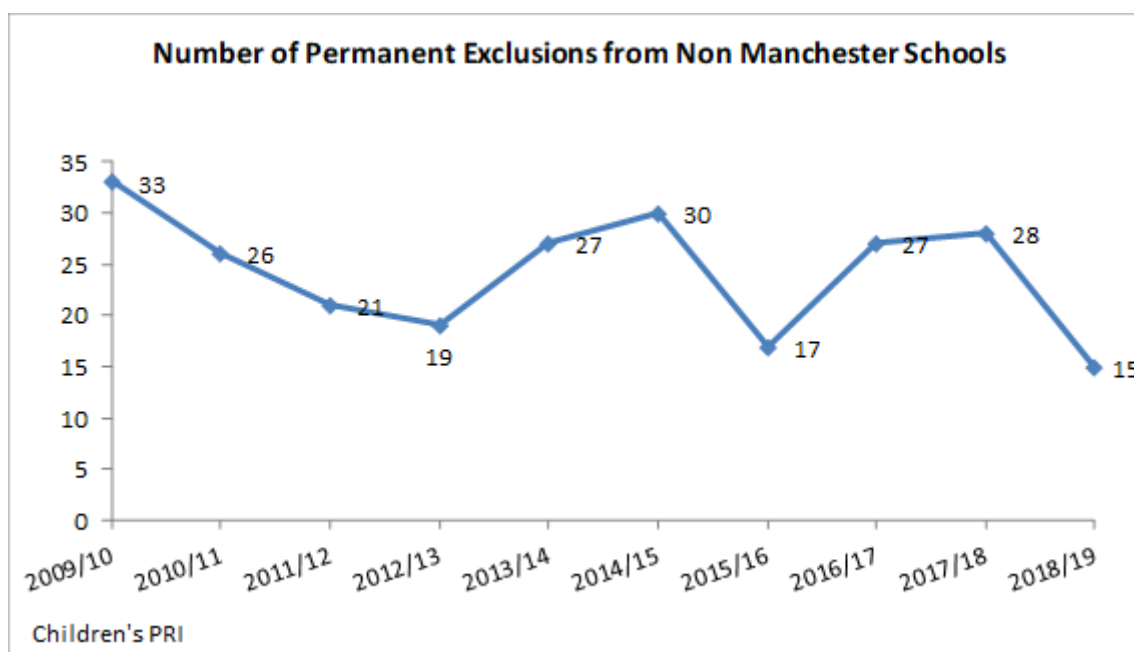


Graph 3

- 5.9 The most common reason for being permanently excluded in 2018/19 was persistent disruptive behaviour, with this reason accounting for a quarter of all permanent exclusions (24.7%). Physical assault against an adult was the second most common reason, at 13.5%, while the third most common reason was verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult, at 11.2%. Almost 35% of exclusions have not been given a reason within the prescribed list provided by the DfE. Nationally, in 2017/18, persistent disruptive behaviour remains the most common reason for exclusion, accounting for over a third of all permanent exclusions. The second most

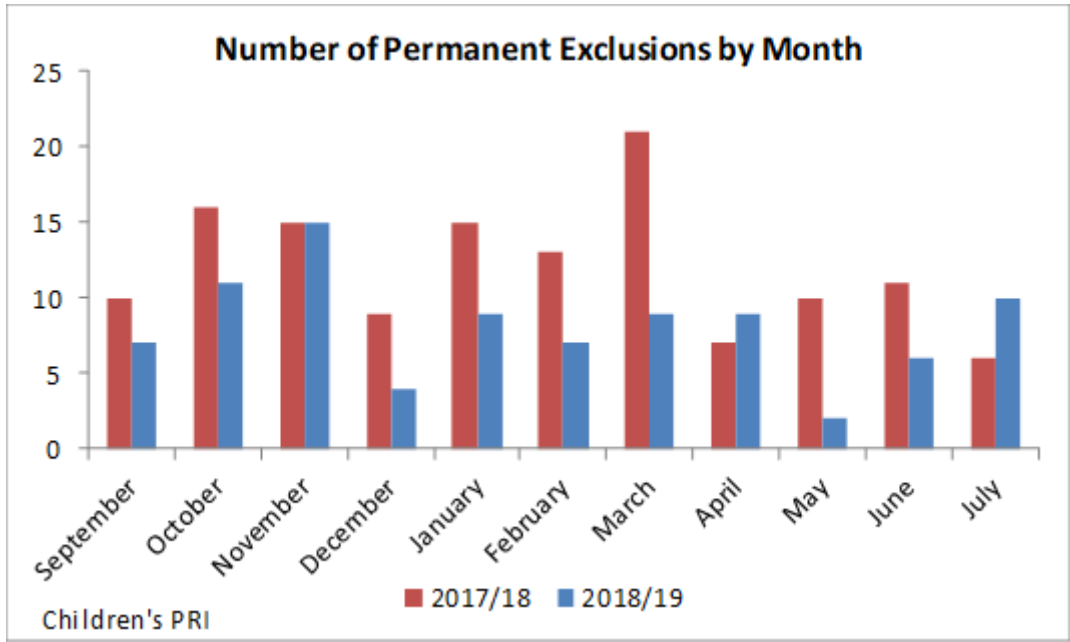
common reason recorded nationally was other, at 18.2%, while the third most common reason was physical assault against a pupil, at 13.1%

- 5.10 In 2018/19 every incident where 'other' was recorded as the reason for permanent exclusion was followed to better understand the 'other' category. Therefore the breakdown of the reasons for 2018/19 are:
Aggressive Behaviour - 2.2%; Drug & Alcohol related - 3.4%; Persistent Disruptive Behaviour - 29.2% (This now includes 4 permanent exclusions for disruptive behaviour); Defiance - 1.1% ; Possession of an Offensive Weapon - 13.5% ; Other - 2.2%; Physical assault on an adult - 13.5% ; Possession of Illegal drugs - 2.2%; Physical assault on a pupil - 11.2%; Persistent violation rules - 5.6%; Racist Abuse - 1.1%; Verbal abuse/threat on an adult - 9%; Violent behaviour - 3.4%; Verbal abuse/threat on a pupil - 2.2%
- 5.11 In addition to pupils permanently excluded from Manchester schools, the number of Manchester residents who are permanently excluded from schools in other local authorities are monitored. Graph 4 shows the trend in the number of these pupils permanently excluded over the last ten years. Following a reduction in 2015/16 the graph shows there was a 59% increase in 2016/17. There has since been a 46% decrease in 2018/19.



Graph 4

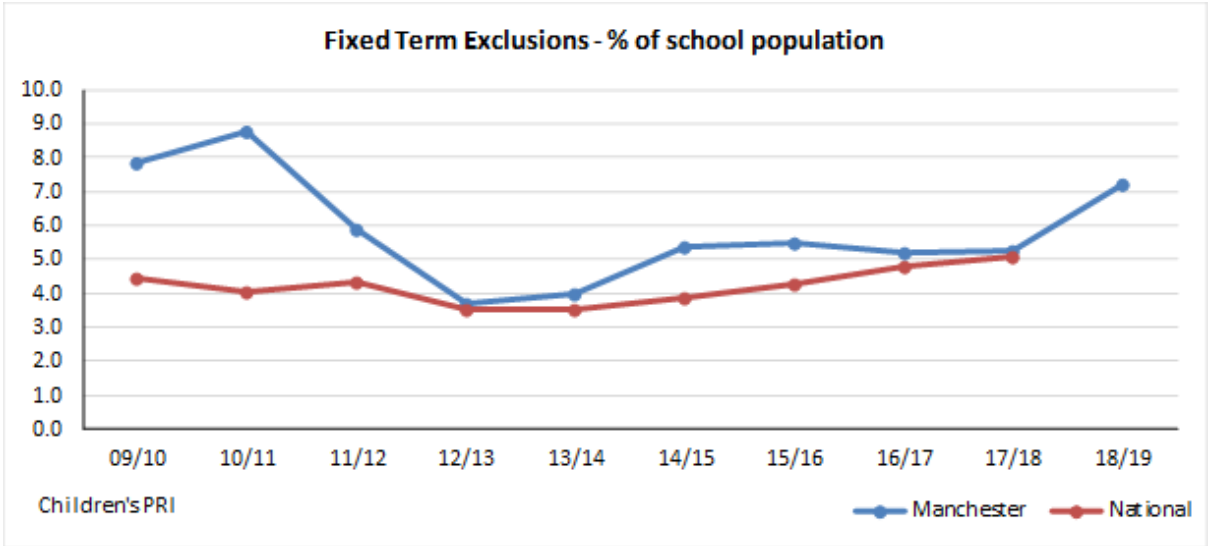
- 5.12 In 2018/19, 37 (41.6%) of the permanent exclusions were in the autumn term, 31 (34.8%) were in the spring term and 21 (23.6%) were in the summer term. The monthly pattern, see graph 5, shows that the highest number of permanent exclusions were issued in November. As expected, there was a higher number of permanent exclusions in most months in 2017/18 than in 2018/19. The exceptions to that are April and July. However, the increase in April could be due to the Easter holidays falling at a different point in time.



Graph 5

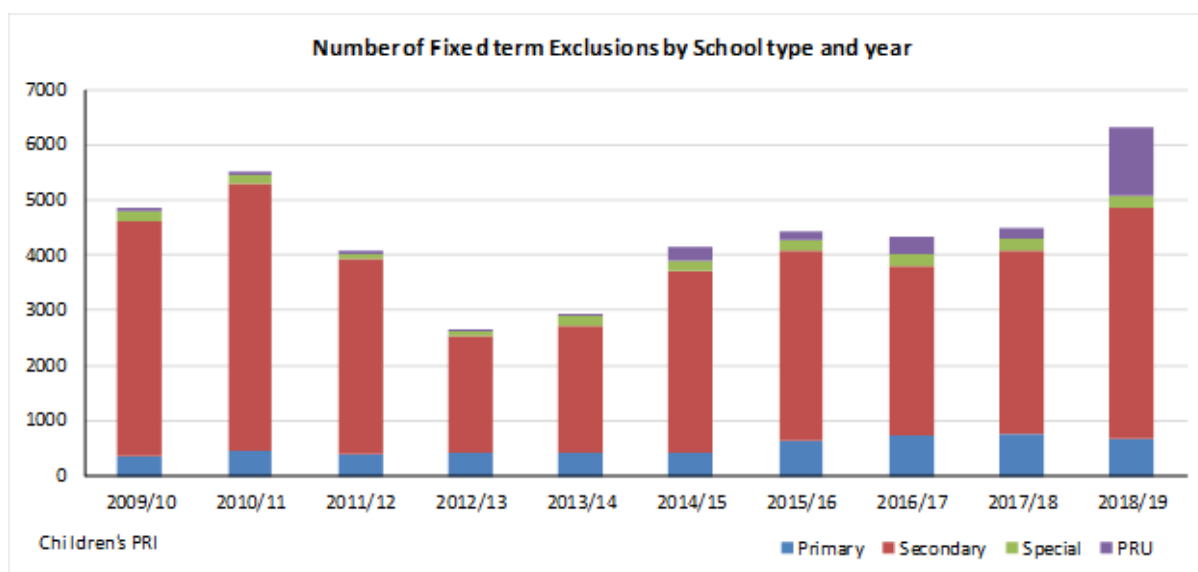
6.0 Fixed Term Exclusions

6.1 There were 6,319 fixed term exclusions from Manchester schools during 2018/19. This is a 40.6% increase on the number of exclusions in 2017/18. Graph 6 shows the ten year trend for the percentage of fixed term exclusions in Manchester and nationally. The trend shows a peak in 2010/11 in Manchester, followed by a sharp decline until 2013/14 when numbers began to increase. Recent years show that the percentage of fixed term exclusions has remained relatively static, however there has been a sharp increase in 2018/19. Nationally, there has been a steady increase in the rate of fixed term exclusions from 2013/14.



Graph 6

- 6.2 Nearly two thirds of fixed term exclusions were from secondary schools, accounting for 66.5%, while nationally, in 2017/18, 80.4% of all fixed term exclusions were from secondary schools. It should be noted however, that the Manchester internal analysis includes exclusions from PRUs whereas the national figures do not. The number of fixed term exclusions peaks in Years 9 and 10, which account for 20.1% and 20.9% of all exclusions respectively. Graph 7 shows the breakdown in the number of exclusions in each of the last ten years.
- 6.3 There has been a 26.6% increase in the number of fixed term exclusions from secondary schools while there has been a 13% improvement in the number of exclusions from primary schools. The number of exclusions from special schools remains stable.

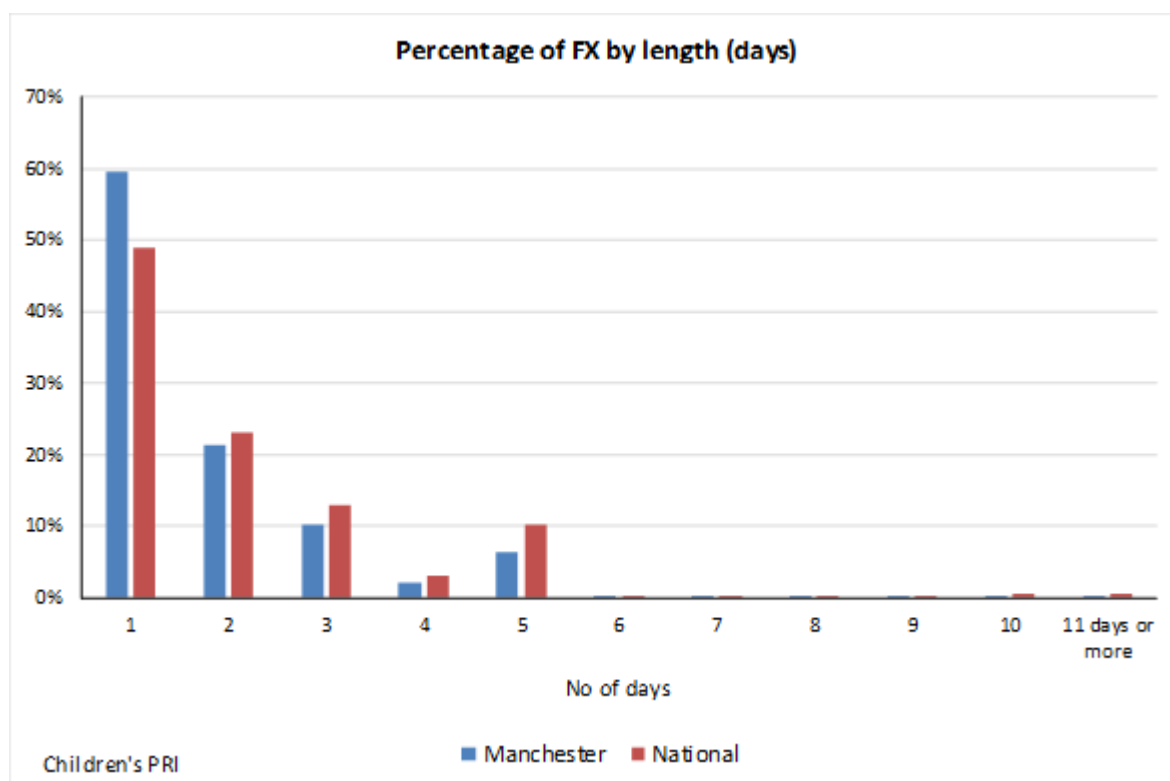


Graph 7

- 6.4 It had been previously noted that the percentage of fixed term exclusions was relatively high in the Manchester PRU. This was reviewed, as part of the LA's quality assurance processes, by a highly experienced quality assurance professional.
- 6.5 Findings suggested that the reasons for exclusion match the school's aims and behaviour policy. Given that the PRU receives students who have been permanently excluded from a school or are at high risk of exclusion, there is a 50% success rate in no further exclusion. Of those who have an exclusion, 46% have three or less FTE (mainly half days). The data therefore suggests that there is only a small proportion of pupils (4%) that have a significant number of exclusions
- 6.6 Across Manchester, the number of pupils with at least one fixed term exclusion has increased from 2,285 in 2017/18 to 2,812 in 2018/19. This equates to 3.21% of pupils in Manchester schools having at least one fixed term exclusion in 2018/19, compared with 2.67% in 2017/18 and the national average of 2.33%.

6.7 In total 9,951 days were lost to fixed term exclusions in 2018/19, an increase from 7,580 days lost in 2017/18. The average length of each fixed term exclusion in Manchester has decreased to 1.57 in 2018/19, compared with 1.67 in 2017/18. The national average length of exclusion for 2017/18 was 2 days.

6.8 Graph 8 shows that 59.4% of fixed term exclusions lasted for no more than one day. This is higher than the Manchester and national rates for 2017/18 of 55.6% and 48.9% respectively. There were 31 (0.5%) fixed term exclusions lasting over five days in 2018/19, while nationally, in 2017/18, this figure was 1.7%. The longest fixed term exclusion in 2018/19 was 20 days.



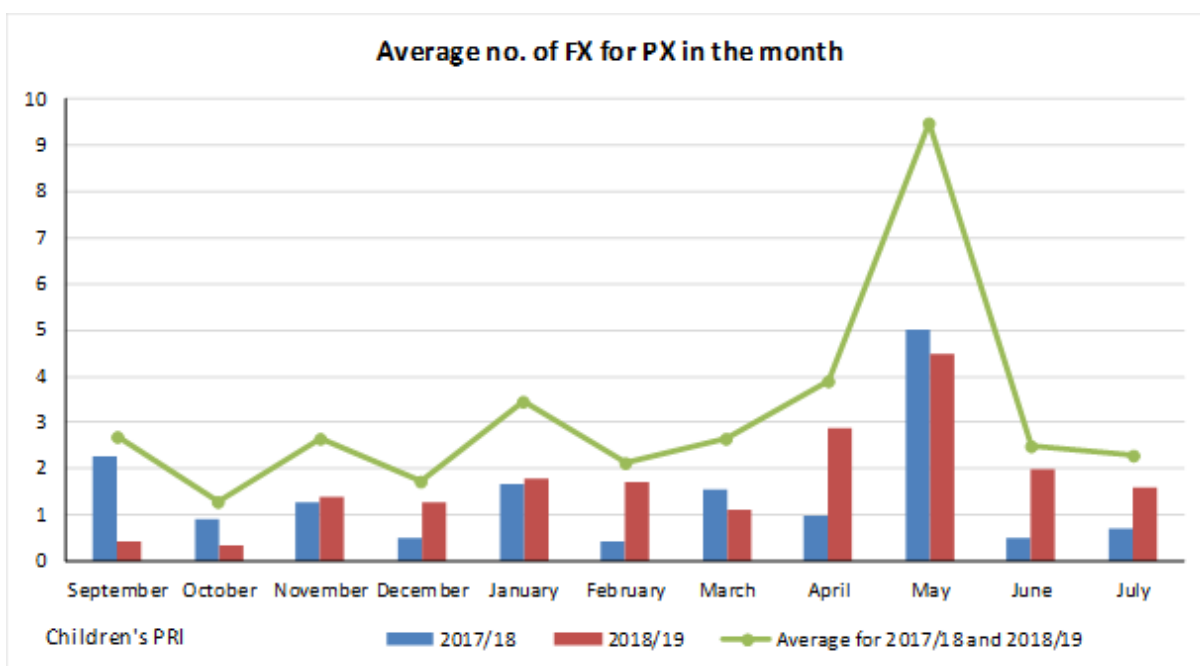
Graph 8

6.9 On average each pupil was excluded 2.25 times, which is higher than the 2017/18 figure of 1.97 and the national figure for 2017/18 of 2.18. Of the 2,812 pupils with a least one fixed term exclusion, 54.4% were excluded once during 2018/19, 20.3% had two fixed term exclusions and 9.3% had three fixed term exclusions, leaving 16% with four or more fixed term exclusions. This is a reduction from the 59% of pupils receiving one fixed term exclusion in 2017/18, but an increase in the number receiving two and three exclusions (18.5% and 10.4% respectively). In 2017/18, 12.1% of pupils received four or more fixed term exclusions. Nationally, in 2017/18, 58.1% of pupils had one fixed term exclusion, with 18.3% of pupils having two fixed term exclusions, 8.9% with three and 14.7% with four or more.

6.10 Of the 89 pupils who were permanently excluded during 2018/19, 62 (69.7%) had a fixed term exclusion during either 2017/18 or 2018/19. Of these 89 pupils, 13 had 1 fixed term exclusion across the time period, 8 had 2 fixed

term exclusions, 13 had 3 fixed term exclusions and the remaining 28 had four or more.

- 6.11 Graph 9 shows the month in which these 89 pupils were permanently excluded in 2018/19 and the average number of fixed term exclusions received during the 2017/18 and 2018/19 academic years, relative to the month that the permanent exclusion occurred. It also shows the average number of fixed term exclusions for both years combined. Pupils who were excluded in May had the highest average number of fixed term exclusions. Looking at the data behind this, however, indicates that this is due to a two pupils each having a high number of fixed term exclusions.
- 6.12 A further consideration is that the number of fixed term exclusions in the year of the permanent exclusion only looks at fixed terms that occurred before the permanent exclusion. It is therefore more likely that the average number of fixed term exclusions for pupils permanently excluded in September and October is lower as there is less time available for a fixed term exclusion to have been issued.

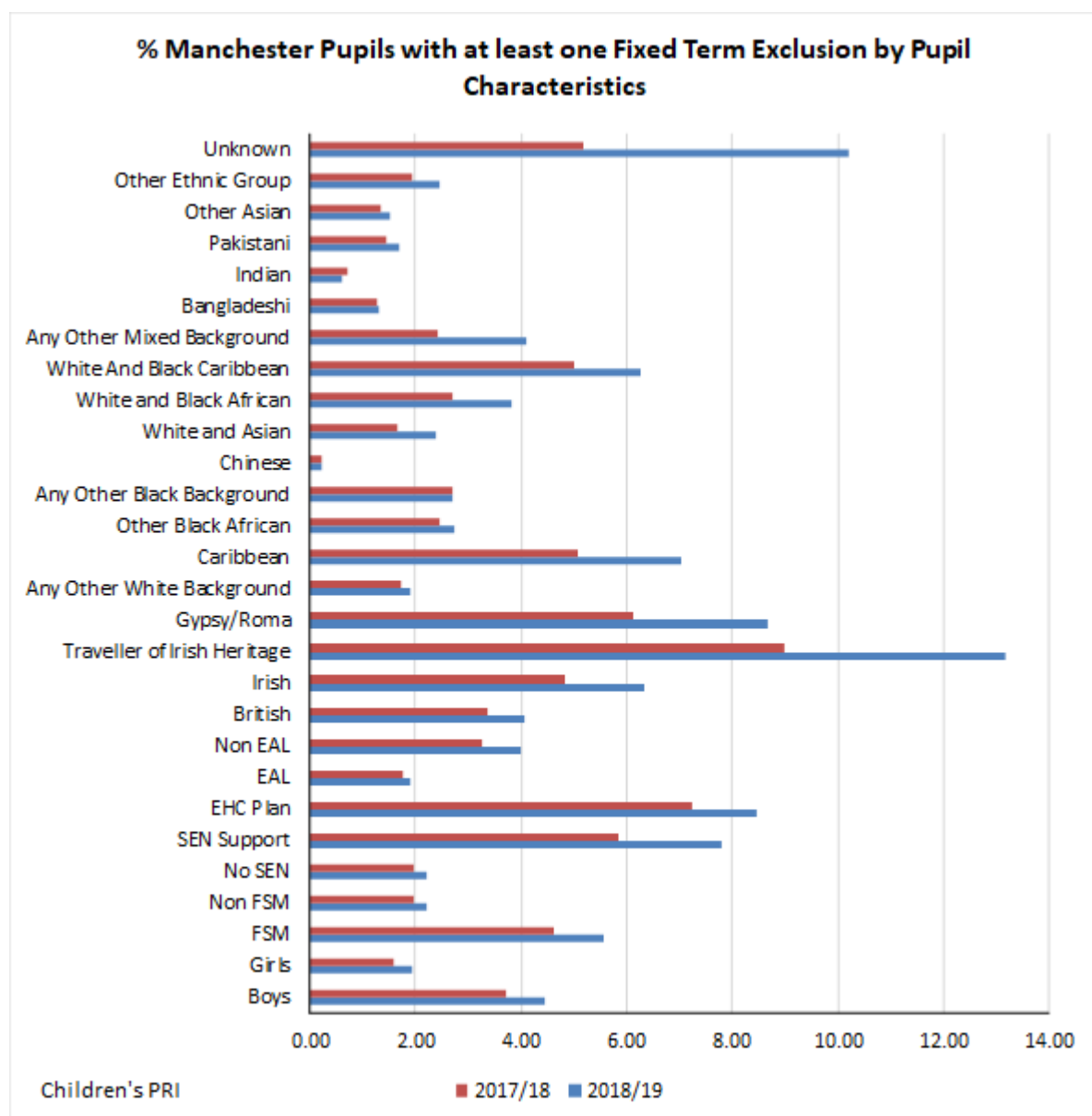


Graph 9

- 6.13 Graph 10 shows the rate of fixed term exclusions for different pupil groups in 2018/19 compared with the rates of Manchester pupils in 2017/18. This uses the number of pupils with at least one fixed term exclusion measure.
- 6.14 The rate of pupils with at least one fixed term exclusion continues to be higher for boys than girls. The fixed term exclusion rate for boys is more than twice that for girls. Nationally, for 2017/18, the exclusion rate for boys remains almost two and a half times higher than girls.
- 6.15 The rate of pupils with SEND who have at least one fixed term exclusion is around three and a half times that of pupils with no SEND. Pupils with an EHC plan continue to have the highest rate of exclusions, at almost four

times higher than pupils with no SEND, while pupils receiving SEN support is three and a half times higher than pupils with no SEND. Nationally, in 2017/18, the trend is similar to Manchester, as pupils with an EHC plan have an exclusion rate of almost four times higher than those without SEND, while pupils receiving SEN support have an exclusion rate which is just over three and a half times higher.

- 6.16 The rate of pupils eligible for FSM who have at least one fixed term exclusion is around two and a half times higher than for pupils who are not eligible. This is slightly higher than in 2017/18. Nationally, in 2017/18, pupils eligible for free school meals have an exclusion rate which is three times higher than for those who are not eligible.
- 6.17 The rate of pupils with at least one fixed term exclusion varies between ethnic backgrounds. Pupils of Traveller of Irish Heritage had the highest rate of fixed term exclusions. The group with the second highest rate of exclusion was Gypsy/Roma and third was Caribbean. This is the same as it was in 2017/18. Nationally, in 2017/18, the Gypsy/Roma ethnic group had the highest rate of fixed term exclusions, followed by the Traveller of Irish heritage group and those of Black Caribbean ethnicity.



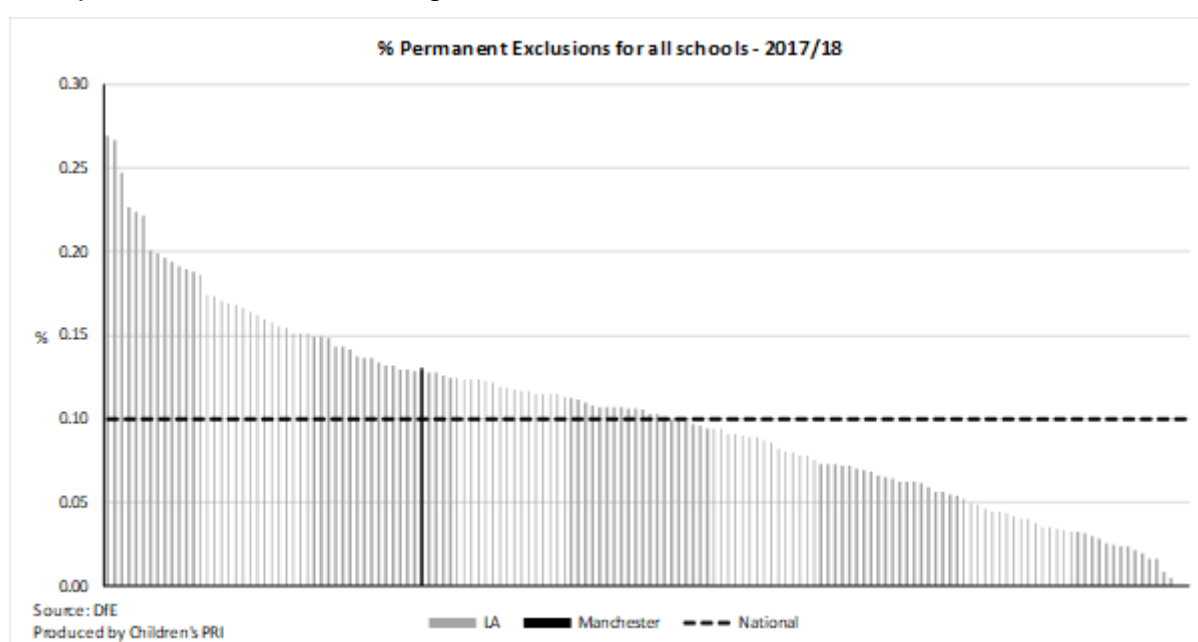
Graph 10

- 6.18 The most common reason for an incident of fixed term exclusion in 2018/19 was persistent disruptive behaviour (26.3%). The second most common reason, ignoring other, was verbal abuse or threatening behaviour towards an adult (16%), followed by physical assault against a pupil (15.5%). The national picture for 2017/18 shows that 30% of fixed term exclusions were due to persistent disruptive behaviour, while the second most common reason, ignoring other, was physical assault against a pupil (16.4%), followed by verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult (15.2%). Other was the reason given for 20% of fixed term exclusions in both Manchester and nationally, in 2017/18.
- 6.19 During 2018/19, 38.3% of fixed term exclusions took place in the autumn term, 36.1% in the spring term and 25.5% in the summer term. The peaks during the year were 13.3% of exclusions taking place in March, 12.9% in

November and 10.2% in May. These were also the months with the top three highest percentage of fixed term exclusions in 2017/18.

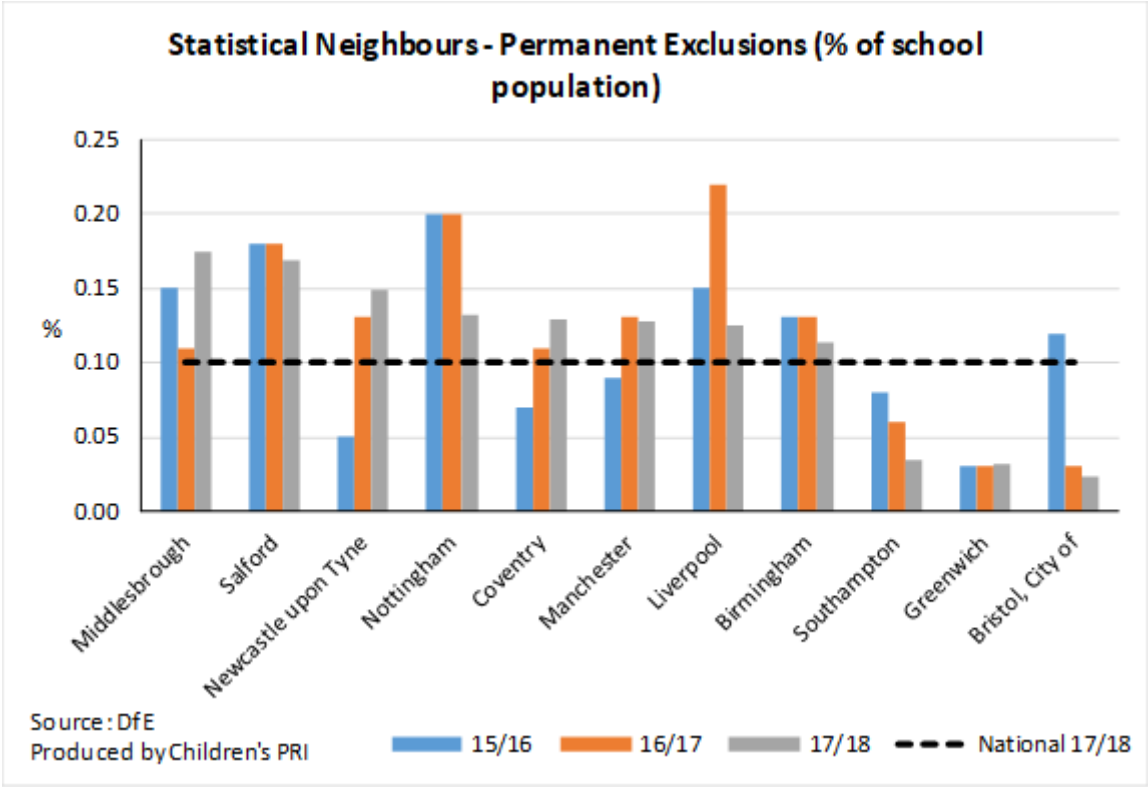
7.0 Manchester Comparison with National and Statistical Neighbours (2017/18)

- 7.1 This section uses the latest available published national and Local Authority data from 2017/18. 2018/19 data will be validated and published in July 2020.
- 7.2 Graph 12 shows the rate of permanent exclusions in Manchester relative to all other local authorities in the country. Manchester now has the 45th highest rate of permanent exclusions in the country compared with 57th in 2016/17. It is expected that this will change in 2018/19.



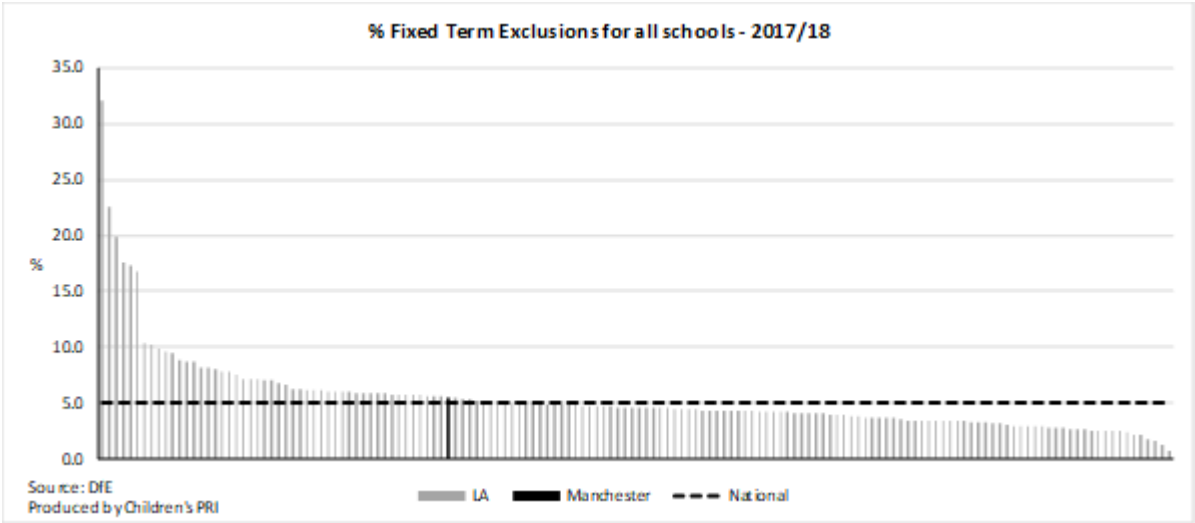
Graph 12

- 7.3 Graph 13 shows the percentage of permanent exclusions in Manchester and each of its statistical neighbour authorities. The graph shows that the rate of permanent exclusions in Manchester has decreased slightly in 2017/18, compared with 2016/17 and is above the national average. Manchester has the 6th highest rate of permanent exclusions within the group compared with 4th highest in 2015/16. The rate of permanent exclusion has increased in 6 of the statistical neighbour authorities in 2017/18. It has remained the same in two, one of which is Manchester.



Graph 13

7.4 Graph 14 shows the rate of fixed term exclusions in Manchester relative to all other Local Authorities in the country. The graph shows that Manchester had the 50th highest rate of fixed term exclusions in the country, compared with 31st in 2016/17.



Graph 14

7.5 Graph 15 shows the rate of fixed term exclusions in Manchester and its statistical neighbour authorities. Out of this group, Manchester had the 5th highest rate of fixed term exclusion in 2017/18, compared with 4th in 2016/17. The rate of fixed term exclusions in Manchester is still above the national average, although the difference has reduced.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 2018/19 saw a significant reduction in the use of permanent exclusion in Manchester schools, however there was also a significant increase in the use of fixed term exclusions with an over representation of children with SEND.
- 8.2 Continuing to reduce both permanent and fixed term exclusions is a key priority for Manchester Children Services through the newly launched Manchester Inclusion Strategy which emphasis improving inclusion in the broadest sense including early intervention.
- 8.3 Therefore to ensure a continuing reduction in permanent and fixed term exclusions Manchester City Council's Inclusion Strategy outlines a number of actions that MCC and partners will undertake. The delivery of these are being monitored through a multi-agency steering group.

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Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 4 December 2019

Subject: Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) 2018/2019 Annual Report

Report of: Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

Summary

This is the 2018/2019 Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing (IRO) Service for looked after children, which is required in accordance with the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and subsequent statutory guidance published by the Department for Children Schools and Families in 2010 as set out in the The IRO Handbook.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee Members consider the progress and impact being achieved by the IROs in the Safeguarding Improvement Unit and the goals set out for 2019/2020 with regard to;

1. The continuous drive for improvement of practice that has positive impacts on the planning for our children and young people in Manchester.
2. To strengthen the participation and feedback of children, young people, parents and carers involved with the Safeguarding Improvement Unit.
3. For Scrutiny Committee Members to seek a progress report in six months time which provides an update in relation to the service position on driving permanence and practice improvement.

(Please note - Regional comparator IRO data for 2018/19 has not been published at the time of writing and the report will be updated to reflect the regional position once available)

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and	The IROs will challenge and support stakeholders involved in children and young people's lives to

distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	ensure that they are ambitious and seek opportunities through education, employment and training.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	We are invested in the learning and development of the IROs to ensure that they have the expertise to deliver a high quality service to improve outcomes for children and young people.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	We promote Family Network meetings and actively encouraging children, young people, parent/carers to identify their own plans to enable children to remain with or in contact with birth family.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The IROs promote Manchester as a city with significant opportunities for Our Children as they move into independence so that they remain living and working in Manchester; whilst promoting environmentally friendly modes of travel in their day to day activity.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	We encourage all Our Children to experience the diverse nature of Manchester and promote the opportunities for leisure, entertainment and experiences available by a city the size of Manchester.

Contact Officers:

Name: Julie Daniels
Position: Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Practice Improvement
Telephone: 0161 234 1075
E-mail: julie.daniels@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Jayne Jones
Position: Acting Service Lead Safeguarding Improvement Unit
Telephone: 0161 600 8192
E-mail: Jayne.jones@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) 2018/2019 Annual Report

1.0 Introduction

The annual report is prepared for those with executive responsibility for children's services and corporate parenting, to enable consideration of the services on offer, and to be assured that the local authority is having a positive impact on Our Children.

The report provides an opportunity to highlight the key data of Our Children, areas of good practice over the last twelve months and goals for 2019/2020 that recognises the key priorities and how we will achieve this.

2.0 Background

The role of the IRO is in two parts chairing a child's review and monitoring a child or young person's ongoing care plan. The report attached discusses how this has been achieved over the last twelve months.

The key messages from the report from 2018/2019 show that while there is has a slight increase in the number of Our Children looked after the average IRO caseload has remained at 70 children, which continues to give the IROs the capacity to engage young people and ensure that they have adequate oversight.

In October 2018 an OFSTED focus visit recognised that since the last inspection in 2017 we had made improvements to the timeliness of reviews. We have also seen 46% of Our Children attended and participated in their review over this period that is an increase from the previous year.

The report identifies the following key successes over 2018/2019 within the service:

- Continued stable workforce
- The successfully of a child friendly review process, which includes minutes being written to the child and reflects the child or young person's understanding.
- A high percentage of children participating before and during their care planning review meetings.
- The Mind of My Own app has been implemented and used by Independent Reviewing Officers to engage with children and young people.
- The Have Your Say Booklet has been updated to be more strength based and there has been an increase in the use of the booklet as a result.

The report acknowledges that the Safeguarding Improvement Unit has continued to drive better outcomes for children and young people by providing challenge, support, learning and development. It has worked in partnership with a number of key partners to deliver better outcomes for children and young people. This includes ensuring children, carers, parents and professionals receive a record of their meeting in a timely manner so everyone is clear of the plan, recommendations and actions from Our Children's reviews.

3.0 Recommendations

The report sets out the priorities for the IROs and the Safeguarding Improvement Unit through 2019/2020. It explains how we are bowling to achieve our goals and what the impact of this will be. We will align achieving all our goals to Manchester's practice Standards and continue to work in a strength based way with children, young people, parents, carers and professionals to deliver on the following goals:

What Good Looks like - Practice Improvement Approach

The unit has a stable workforce with significant experience amongst them. We have collectively identified that it is important that this expertise is fully utilised within Children's Services and while fundamentally their function is around chairing the child's review and monitoring the child's case on an ongoing basis they can play a significant role in practice improvement. Therefore, we will invest over the next twelve months to supporting IROs to drive practice improvement by displaying "what Good Looks like". The vehicle to drive this will be the Golden Threads:

- Good Quality Assessments
- Good Quality Plans
- Impact chronologies (strengthening decision making & permanence planning)
- Good management oversight (including high support & challenge of IROs)
- Voice and experience of child is evident throughout
- Evidence of strong engagement with parents, family & carers throughout our involvement.

The IRO service has a stable workforce with significant expertise amongst them and in 2019/2020 we will strengthen our relationship with the locality Social Work teams to utilise this expertise and drive quality of practice through a coaching approach that provides high challenge and high support better outcomes through improved planning of children and young people.

Strengthening Participation

We will be creative in 2019/2020 to drive participation in Our Children's reviews this includes getting young people to think more about what their review would look like and delivering on this. We will work with Social Workers and carers to ensure that we are planned for reviews so that the meeting is purposeful in reviewing the care plan.

The Safeguarding Improvement Unit will actively engage children and young people in participating in the delivery of the services through inviting children and young people to be involved in decision making around service delivery, recruitment and learning and development.

Actively seeking Feedback

We will increase customer feedback by revising the approach to obtaining feedback with stronger emphasis on proactively seeking feedback and Independent Reviews and incorporating technology into this. We will use this information to learn about the impact we have had on improving outcomes for children & young people and this will

feed into improving service delivery.

Promoting Stability

We will promote the importance of placement stability as being critical for the emotional wellbeing of Our Children and Young People'. We will drive the importance of Our Children build relationships and investing in their future through secure placements and investment in their local community. As part of IRO scrutiny we will ensure that the right placement is identified for the child in the first instance through early planning and ensure children's rights to be part of that process and meet with potential carers is promoted.

We will provide training in regards to Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) for all IROs to develop their knowledge on the effects of ACE.

Pathways Plans driving ambition

We aim to focus on strengthening our oversight of Pathways Plans. We know that Pathway Needs Assessment and Plans assist young people to move successfully into independence and we will make this a priority for 2019/2020 to improve the quality of pathway plans. The IROs will ensure through regular oversight that the Pathway Needs Assessment are completed with the young people and provide an analysis of the young person's education journey, including EHCP, successes, ambitions, predictions and desired outcomes.

Our Manchester Permanence Practice Promise

IROs have a role in ensuring that we are working towards our promise of permanence from day 1 with the least interventionist approach and that plans are driven at pace with everyone responsible for getting it right. The IROs play an active role in the permanent tracker process that has oversight of the permanence planning for all children. Over the next twelve months we will continue to participate in the process and actively connect with Social Work teams to drive the permanence plans for children.

In conclusion, the IRO service have already commenced the journey to what good looks like for Our Children in regards to working towards the goals set out above. We have started to embed the new Quality Assurance Framework that went live in 2019 and set ourselves some ambitious targets for supporting the improvement of practice with better links to the Social Work Services to drive good quality assessments and plans for children. The IROs have the expertise to share with Social Workers what good should look like and what exercise this when chairing reviews and having oversight of Our Children's files. Finally, we will work hard to strengthen the engagement, participation and feedback by ensuring that the service is dynamic and reaches out to Our Children, parents and carers.

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Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)

Annual Report 2018-2019

Julie Daniels
Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Practice Improvement
November 2019

Report to: Children's Leadership Team
Corporate Parenting Panel
The Change Group
The Group

This report will also be published on the Manchester City Council external website.

Principal Authors: Julie Daniels, Head of Quality Assurance for Safeguarding
Jayne Jones, Interim Lead for Children's Safeguarding

Co-Authors: Marian Flaherty, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager
Melanie Sharples, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager
David Carr, Directorate Performance, Research and Intelligence Lead

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1. FORWARD

This Annual Report provides an account of the activity of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019. It evaluates practice, plans and arrangements for Our Children and Young People (previously referred to as Looked After Children) and the effectiveness of the IRO service in ensuring that Manchester Local Authority as a Corporate Parent is discharging its statutory responsibilities towards them.

IROs have a pivotal role to play in ensuring that care plans for children effectively address their needs, take into account Our Children and Young People's ascertainable views and opinions and improve outcomes for them.

This report demonstrates the continuous development and improvement in the IRO Service over the past year and highlights the improvements that are required if the service is to achieve its aspiration to be outstanding.

Manchester City Council and its partners continue to be committed to its promise to Our Children and Young People. The IRO Service is clear about its role and responsibilities in relation to the delivery of the promise. The report will be presented to the Children's Leadership Team, and the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Julie Daniels

(Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Practice Improvement)

**Please note that data provided in this report for 2018/2019 is provisional pending year end validation processes and submission to and publication by the Department for Education. Rates per 10,000 of the Child Population have been calculated using the latest available population estimates published as part of the CIN Census data. This may be slightly different than the population figure used by the Department for Education to calculate rates per 10,000 in subsequent data publications later in 2020.*

2. SERVICE AND LEGAL CONTEXT

2.1 The role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)

The primary task of the IRO is to ensure that the care plans for Our Children and Young People fully reflect their needs, ensures that their wishes and feelings are given full and due consideration and that the actions set out in the plan are consistent with the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities. As Corporate Parents each Local Authority should ensure that they act for the children and young people they look after as a responsible and conscientious parent.

The appointment by local authorities of an IRO is a statutory requirement.

The statutory duties of the IRO are to [section 25B (1) -1989 Act]:

- Monitor the performance by the Local Authority of their functions in relation to the child's case;
- Participate in any review of the child's case;
- Ensure that any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child concerning the case are given due consideration by the appropriate authority; and
- Perform any other function which is prescribed in regulations.

There are two clear and separate aspects to the function of an IRO:

- i. chairing the child's review; and
- ii. monitoring the child's case on an ongoing basis.

The IRO Handbook sets out the statutory roles and duties as well as the strategic and managerial responsibilities of Local Authorities in establishing an effective IRO Service. [1]

The IRO Service in Manchester sits within the Safeguarding and Improvement Unit. The service is managed independently of children's social work line management and is therefore offering an appropriate level of independence that enables the service to effectively challenge the practice, plans and arrangements for Our Children by the Local Authority. The Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Practice Improvement reports directly to the Strategic Director of Children's Services. IROs and their managers have no involvement in preparing a child's care plan, management of the case, operational decision making and/or allocation of resources to Our Children and Young people.

Manchester Children's Services is committed to achieving a fully effective IRO Service that is outstanding. We continue to be successful in creating a culture and climate within the Local Authority that values the IRO Service. We aim to offer support and challenge to the social work service.. Professionals across Children's Services and our partner agencies encourage and expect IROs to offer robust scrutiny, be child-centred and to offer challenge as and when required.

IROs in Manchester are equipped with the right knowledge and skills that enable them to effectively scrutinise practice, plans and arrangements for Our Children and Young People. They continue to

have open access to expert advice through the provision of independent legal advice from Wigan Council. The Dispute Resolution protocol is embedded and works effectively, from informal conversations to the escalation of cases to senior management and the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS) if necessary. Most importantly there is clear evidence of IROs practising in a child-centred way and of their footprint on the child's case file.

Here in the Safeguarding Improvement Unit we believe that we can make a difference to the lives of children and young people as articulated by Nadim Zahawi who stated ***“I want to see IROs realise their potential to make a real difference in the lives of all looked after children across the country. They have an opportunity to improve practice and I am really pleased to see them embrace this. It is crucial that we hear the voices of children and their families to drive better decisions, taking their views on board in care planning in a meaningful way, to ensure that they can experience stable lives and have access to the same opportunities that we would want for our own children. I know that this will take some hard work and demands the sponsorship of local leaders and politicians so I am calling to those people to stand up for the voice of their children and families and lend their support to this important programme.” Nadhim Zahawi MP, previous Minister for Children and Families (2019)***

2.2 Profile of the IRO Service in Manchester

There were significant changes in the SIU Management Team during 2018/2019. In January and February 2019 the Head Of Safeguarding and the Lead for Children's Safeguarding moved on to new roles. The new Head of Safeguarding or Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Practice Improvement came into post in April 2019. The Lead for Safeguarding was temporarily covered by an Interim Manager.

In the reporting period Manchester had 19 full time IRO posts with 21 staff (as some work part time) managed by two Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Managers. The IROs in Manchester have dedicated roles to review practice, plans and arrangements for Our Children and Young People. They do not undertake a dual role in child protection conferencing.

The IRO Team remained relatively stable during 2018/2019. Two IROs left the service during the year. One to take up a post closer to home and one to take up the opportunity of a 2 year career break. Two applicants were recruited to these posts. A further two posts were recruited to for 12 month maternity cover. Reducing the change in IROs for Our Children and Young People by retaining a skilled and stable workforce continues to be a priority.

Due to the increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) the number of IROs offering a specialist service to this specific group of children increased from 2 to 3.

The IRO Team has a good balance of experienced IROs and those newer to the role. The profile of the team is diverse, being balanced with male and female workers of varying ages and from different ethnic backgrounds. This reflects the diversity of Our Children and Young People in Manchester.

2.3 IRO Capacity

Service resourcing throughout the year has ensured there is an adequate number of IROs in post enabling the service to maintain caseloads within the number of 50 - 70 children recommended in the IRO Handbook. The average caseload in 2016/17 was 67, this reduced to 66 in 2017/18. In 2018/19, the average caseload increased to 70.

Manchester is committed to caseload levels remaining under 70 per IRO to provide the capacity to carry out the duties and functions to a high standard. As a Safeguarding Improvement Unit we are continually reviewing resources to ensure that we have capacity within the service to offer sufficient oversight and challenge.

2.4 IRO Learning and Development

We are invested in the Learning and Development of the IRO within the service and ensure that all IROs are offered 4 weekly Supervision, annual Appraisals and Direct Observations with the aim of improving practice across the team.

The IRO Service have monthly Team Meetings and Service Development Days have taken place in June 2018, December 2018 and February 2019. These days have enabled staff members from across the service to contribute to key service development plans for 2018/2019. Guest speakers have included representatives from CAFCASS, input from an FGM specialist and Permanence Briefings.

During 2018/2019 two IROs undertook and passed an accredited IRO Advanced Practice course delivered by Edgehill University. We now have 7 IROs who have successfully completed the course. IROs have reported that this course has offered them a positive learning and development opportunity and improved their confidence in practice.

In 2018/19 three members of staff from across the service took part in Phase 1 of the National Assessment and Accreditation system (NAAS). All managers have either completed or are completing ILM Level accreditation as part of drive to enhance effective leadership across the city.

In January 2019, all IROs were offered training on scrutinising the quality of Pathway Planning.

We continue to drive the Signs of Safety approach and the Signs of Safety Practice Leads continues to be offered regular development sessions focussed on embedding the model into practice.

During 2018/2019 Manchester City Council introduced a new Framework for Achieving Permanence across the city and all IROs undertook the training to ensure they had the knowledge of the framework and that their expertise contributed to driving the quality of securing permanence at the earliest opportunity.

3. VOICE AND INFLUENCE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Manchester Children's Services is committed to placing children and young people front and centre to everything that we do. **'Our Manchester - building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people'**.

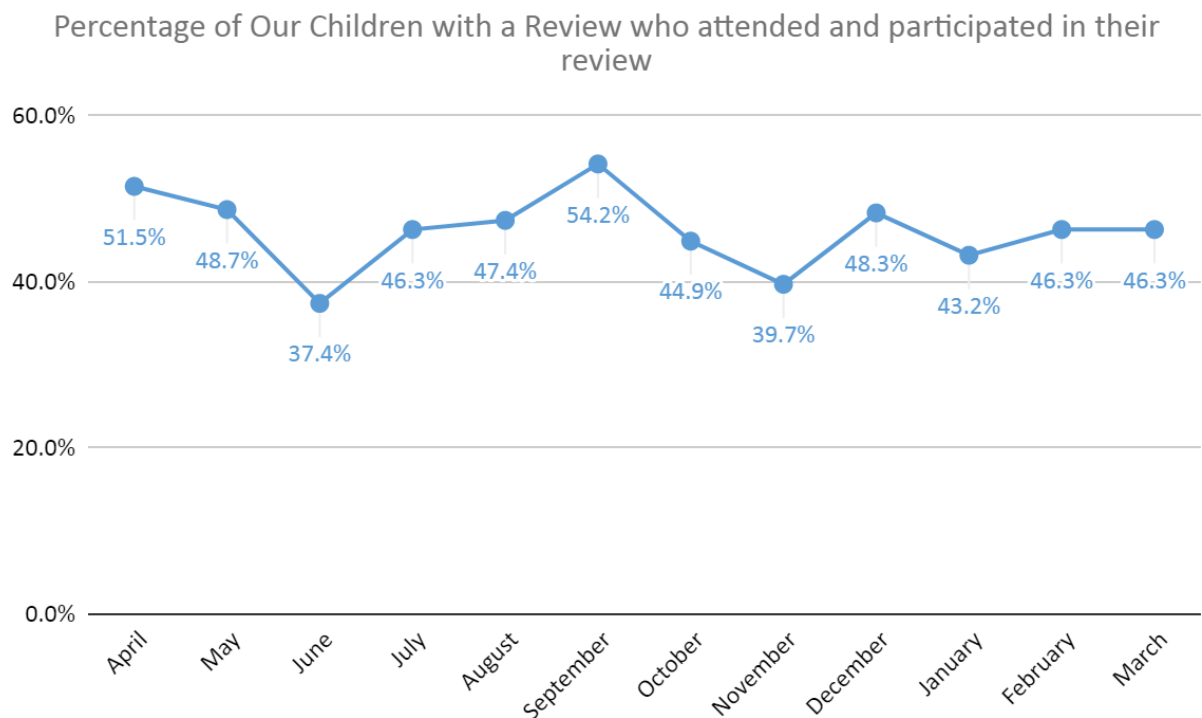
The IRO role is central to building an outstanding Children's Services in which Our Children and Young People have the best care experience and life opportunities. It places children and young people at the centre of everything we do, ensuring their rights, needs and welfare are promoted.

This section explores the varying ways that children and young people participate in their own planning and influence service development and improvements. We continue to champion the Promise made in 2016 (appendix 1).

IROs continue to invest in the Signs of Safety approach when working with children and young people. The approach allows for children and young people to recognise their strengths and articulate what they are worried about to ensure that their voices are heard and influence the plans.

3.1 Participation and Engagement of Children in Our Children Reviews

The IRO Service is committed to listening to the voice of Our Children and Young People and enabling them to influence and shape practice and service development. During 2018/2019 positive steps continued to be made and practice embedded to ensure we have a service which listens effectively to the voice of children and young people and responds to the issues raised by them. We recognise that continuous improvement is required and that we will need to revisit some issues to ensure changes in our practice become part of our everyday work.



The IRO Service is always seeking ways to improve the engagement and participation of children and young people in all areas of practice including the statutory review process. Increased capacity and managed caseloads have provided IROs with the capacity to develop routine home visits to consult children and to promote young people's engagement and participation in reviews. Overall participation and engagement in the review process has increased. The proportion of children attending their reviews has remained stable. Overall, there are now more children attending and participating in their review, with an increase from 44.2% in 2017/18 to 46.3% in 2018/19.

The below table gives some further details of children and young people's participation in their reviews.

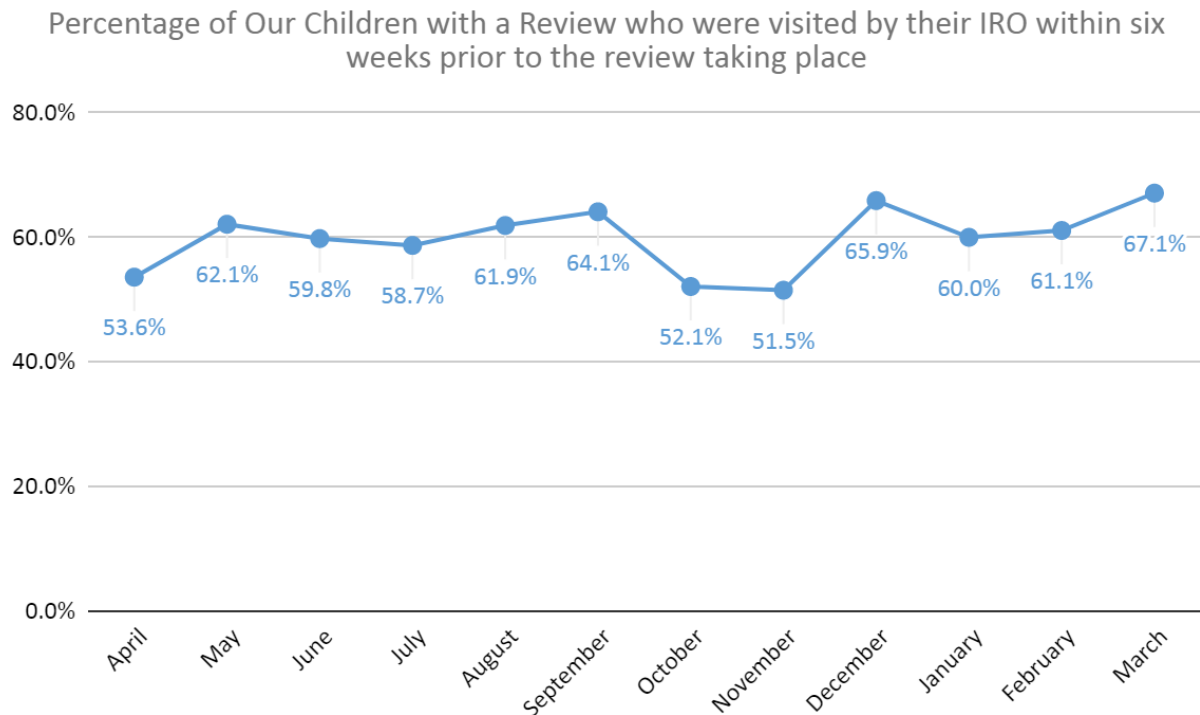
PN codes	Definition	2017-18 % of total reviews	2018-19 % of total reviews
PN0	Child aged under 4 at the time of the review	16.5%	15.9%
PN1	Child physically attends and speaks for him or herself	35.5%	36.0%
PN2	Child physically attends and an advocate speaks on his or her behalf	0.8%	0.8%
PN3	Child attends and conveys his or her view symbolically (non-verbally)	0.5%	0.4%
PN4	Child physically attends but does not speak for him or herself, does not convey his or her view symbolically (non-verbally) and does not ask an advocate to speak for him or her	0.4%	0.3%
PN5	Child does not attend physically but briefs an advocate to speak for him or her	18.3%	18.7%
PN6	Child does not attend but conveys his or her feelings to the review by a facilitative medium	25.2%	23.4%
PN7	Child does not attend nor are his or her views conveyed to the review	2.8%	3.6%

The minutes of reviews continue to be consistently written in an 'easy read' letter to the child and young person, without the use of jargon. Young people provide positive feedback in regards to this style and have a greater understanding of their care plans, what people are worried about, how well they are doing and what the next steps are. This provides them with a greater understanding of the agreed recommendation and the participation of others in achieving them. We believe this empowers them to be able to have influence over their planning.

IROs are committed to ensuring all children know about individual advocacy and how to make a complaint. At each review they consider whether an independent visitor is needed, and any communication needs requiring additional or specialist support.

There has been a focus in 2018/19 to encourage participation and to develop more child centred reviews incorporating child led themes to meetings, which draws on the child's interests. IROs have found that when they have adopted a different approach to the reviews when required the children have felt more comfortable to engage and attend.

3.2 IRO Visits to Children & Young People



IRO visits to see children in the six weeks prior to their review are important. This visit is where the child is consulted about how their review will be managed (who will attend; venue, agenda etc.) and how the child wishes to participate. IROs are able to utilise a range of tools to assist the children and young people to share their wishes and feelings eg the Signs of Safety 3 Houses or Wizards and Fairy communication tools.

The proportion of visits taking place in 2018/19 has averaged 60%, a significant decrease from 79.2% in 2017/18. Performance around visits has been affected by a period of changes in IROs in the latter part of the year and also the fact that some older children choose not to see their IRO. In cases where children do not wish to see their IRO, a range of alternate methods will be offered for them to share their views, set their agenda and be able to influence their care plans. This will include the Mind Of My Own App, Facetime, telephone contact or 'Have your Say' booklets. Young people are also encouraged to use the advocacy service where they wish to have independent support to have their views considered.

3.3 Our Children co-chairing their reviews

IROs continue to support and encourage young people to chair/ co-chair their own review or to agree with their own agendas wherever appropriate. We have not reached the ambitious provisional target of 45% as set out in the 2015/2016 Annual Report and work will continue in the coming year to support and encourage young people to chair/co chair their own review with a review of the target that is currently set at 45%. This year the proportion has fallen to 20.8% , which is a decrease from 2017/2018 when we reached 26.8%.

3.4 Corporate Parenting Panel

As a Corporate Parent to Our Children and Young People, the Council and its partners must act as a responsible and good parent would act. The Corporate Parenting Panel is made up of representatives of the Council, its partner agencies and members of the Our Children Council (The Group) and the Our Young People Council (The Change Group) and is influencing development and improvement in services.

The Head of Quality Assurance for Safeguarding is the strategic lead for Corporate Parenting.

As well as being members of the Corporate Parenting Panel, Our Children and Young People agree the agenda and lead the meeting on a quarterly basis.

Our Children and Young People have also been involved in a number of other events including the annual Achievement Awards, to recognise and celebrate the achievements of Our Children and Young People during 2018-19. Approximately 300 young people from the age of 5 - 25 years have been nominated for a wide variety of achievements. This year the categories have been linked to the Skills for Life Curriculum which are, Team Work, Self Management, Self Belief, Communication and Problem Solving.

3.5 Mind Of My Own

Manchester continue to invest in the Mind of My Own app and have had a number of successes in using this to allow children and young people to communicate with their IRO. The app is an additional tool that supports children and young people the opportunity to express any worries, highlight their achievements and give feedback on meetings among other resources.

Through the use of MOMO in 2018/2019 we know:

- The apps are being used a lot more via worker accounts than young people accounts.
- We have champions within the service that routinely use the app with children and young people.
- Worker's views Using Mind Of My Own, children and young people are more engaged in Looked After Reviews and Education Plans; Using Mind Of My Own has saved me time when working with young people; Mind Of My Own is an innovative way of capturing the young person's voice, so the child's voice will be captured more often and they will have more awareness of the process of statutory meetings; My children are much more engaged in all meetings by using Mind Of My Own; Since using Mind Of My Own, my children are much more willing to engage as most young people like using mobile phones!
- A very high percentage of young people are feeling positive across all age ranges - 94% when it comes to talking about where they live. Far more young people aged 10 to 16 and 17+ were unhappy with where they live vs aged 0 to 9 - 12% of the 0 to 9, 28% of 10 to 16, 24% of 17+

3.6 Children's Rights

Advocacy

NYAS began working on the Manchester Children's Rights Service at the beginning of May 2018. NYAS have met with the Independent Reviewing Officer Service to raise awareness of the new service and share promotional materials.

In the period May 2018- March 2019

- NYAS received 427 new referrals for children and young people – All referrals were allocated to an Advocate in an average of 2 working days
- 327 referrals were closed during the period and 95 were ongoing
- The average age of referral for a child or young person referred was 17
- 46 of the young people were care leavers

The top four reasons for a child or young person to receive support from NYAS were around

- Relationship issues with the Local Authority
- Placement moves
- Issues in their placement
- Wanting to change arrangements regarding seeing their family

Examples of feedback about the service which have been received from children and young people are

"thanks, I didn't think you would phone me so quickly" Young person

"I never knew about advocacy workers until I was 17. I wish I had known them earlier." Young person 19 years

"Advocacy helped me because I was scared to have my own say till I had an advocate to help me make my point." Young person 12 years

Independent Visitors

In the period May 2018-March 2019 there have been 36 new matches and 15 closed matches. Feedback for the service has been –

"I love my visits. They are really good. To be honest I am a Man Utd fan so the match we went was Man City v Burnley which I had agreed to go to with my IV, but I am hoping the next match will be to Man Utd!" Young Person

Foster Carer – "All going fantastic with the IV she knows him inside out and they go off and have some fun real together. She knows how to manage and get through to him."

Foster Carer – "They seem to be getting along really well. He looks forward to seeing her - It's been brilliant and she is lovely. They've done some great visits, most recently to the cinema and also doing a treasure hunt round Manchester."

3.7 Complaints

IROs have a responsibility to ensure that Our Children and Young People are aware of the complaints procedure in Manchester. As identified in the 2017/2018 report we have continued to monitor complaints in order to improve services.

During 2018/2019, there were 31 formal complaints made by Our Children and Young People. This much lower than last year when there were 43 complaints.

In 2018/19 the general themes were:

Theme	Stage	Number
Immigration/ID	3 Stage 1 & 1 Stage 2	4
Placement	6 Stage 1 & 1 Stage 2	7
Funding	7 Stage 1	7
Issues with SW/PA	13 Stage 1	13
Total		31

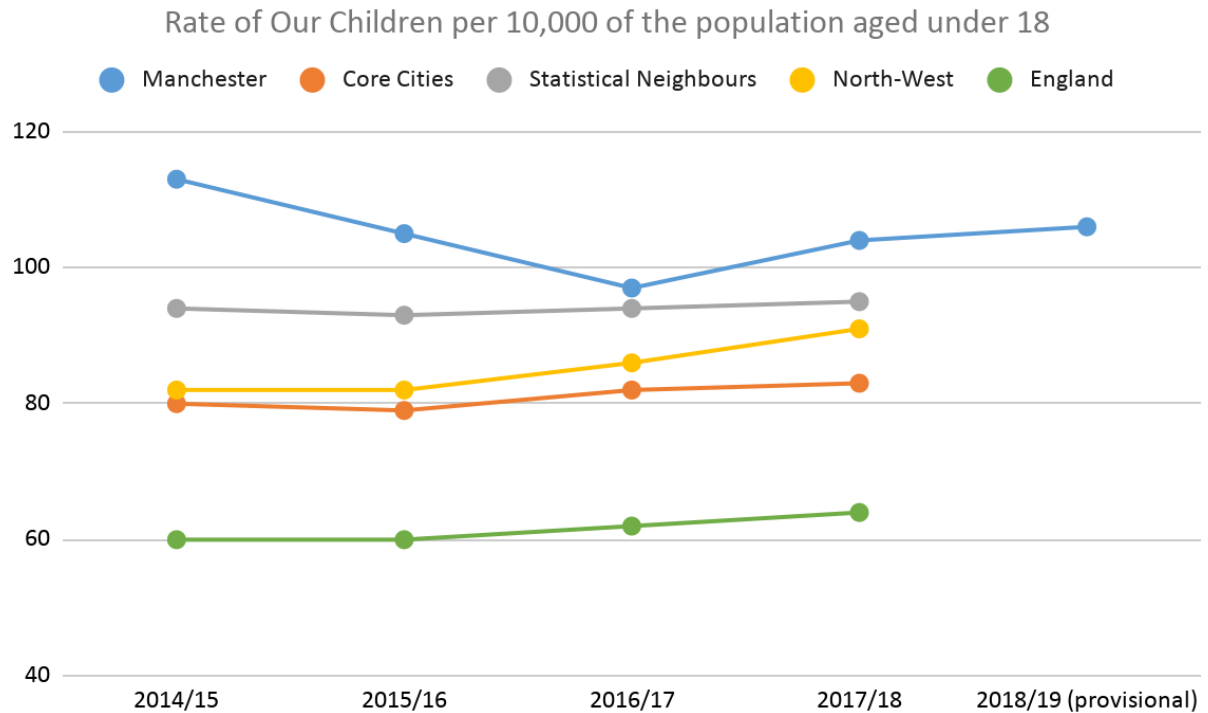
29 of the cases were referred at Stage 1. 2 cases moved to Stage 2. These were cases where the issues were in respect of Immigration and placement. 16 of the Stage 1 complaints were not upheld (52%); 12 Stage 1 and 2 Stage 2 complaints were upheld (45%) and 1 was partially upheld (3%).

Complaints reports are presented at the Children's Leadership Team meetings, the Voice and Influence sub group, Corporate Parenting Panel and the Quality Assurance Framework meeting to monitor progress on themes and action taken to improve practice and services resulting from complaint.

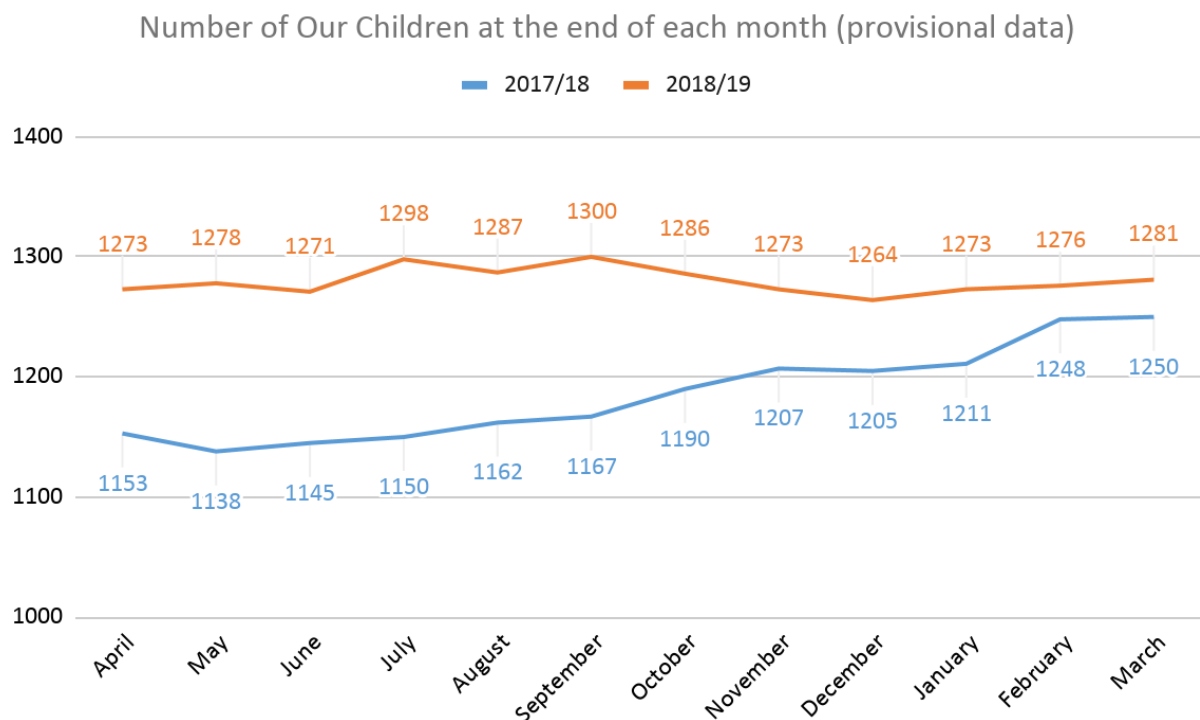
4. OUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DATA 2018/2019

4.1 Our Children and Young People Population

At 31 March 2019 provisional data indicates that Manchester City Council had responsibility for 1,290 of Our Children. This represents an increase of 33 children and young people over this financial year and follows an increase of 83 children and young people in the previous year. The number of Our Children in Manchester remains high when compared to statistical comparator rates for 2017/18. The provisional rate of Our Children in March 2019 per 10,000 population was 106 which marks an increase of 2 from last year's confirmed rate. Nationally the number of Our Children and Young People has been increasing up to 2017/18. National 2018/19 data has not yet been published by the Department for Education.



The local trend is demonstrated in the diagram below.



Levels of demand for children's social care service - Manchester's rate of Referrals per 10,000 of the child population in 2018/19 was 916, a reduction from 1092 in the previous year when Manchester's rate was the highest in the country. Manchester's rate is still higher than other

comparator groups of local authorities such as the Core Cities (734) and the statistical neighbours (687) and is now the 5th highest in the country.

The number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children has risen from 26 in March 2018 to 79 in March 2019 and now represents 6.1% of the total Our Children population. Again there has also been an increasing trend amongst other local authorities.

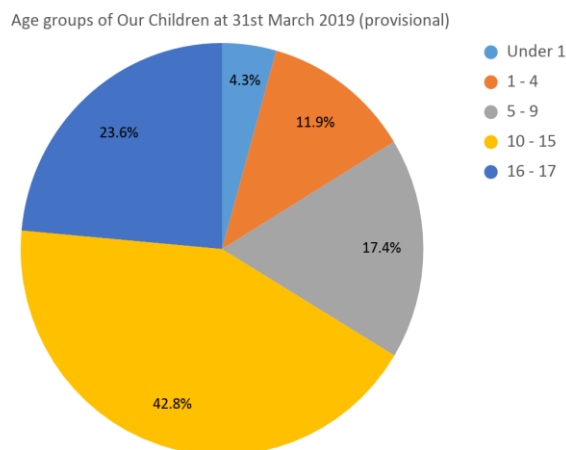
The focus across service remain on:

- Ensuring the right help at the right time for all children and young people - reducing complex demand through effective early intervention and prevention.
- Strengthening the 'front door' service.
- Ensuring that children remain / return home when safe and appropriate.
- A continued focus on achieving early permanence.
- Increased scrutiny by Independent Reviewing Officers contributing to the reduction in numbers of Our Children and Young People where it is safe to do so.

4.2 Profile of Our Children and Young People as at 31 March 2019

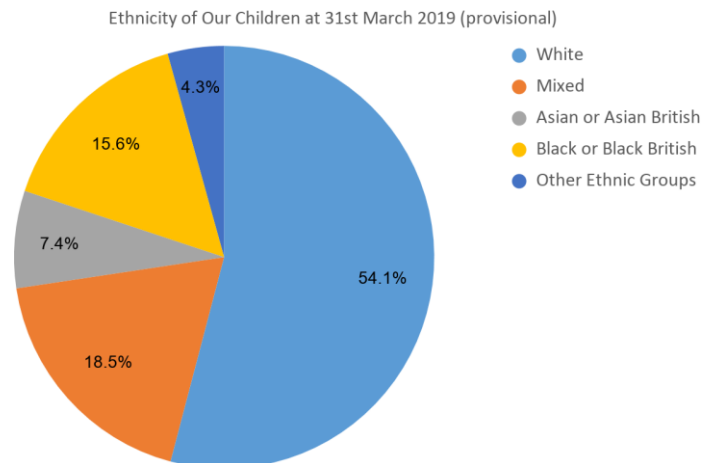
As in previous years there are more boys (721 = 55.9%) than girls (569 = 44.1%) who are looked after in Manchester. This closely resembles the national gender split of children and young people looked after (56%/44%).

Comparing against the age groups nationally, Manchester has a lower Under 1 percentage (4% v. 6%), age 1 to 4 percentage (12% v. 13%) and age 5 to 9 percentage (17% v. 19%). The other age group percentages are then higher, age 10 to 15 (43% v. 39%) and age 16 to 17 (24% v. 23%). This would support the hypothesis that continued strengthening of the early help offer and effective partner agency working through early help and the frontdoor are a factor in the decrease of younger aged children coming into care.



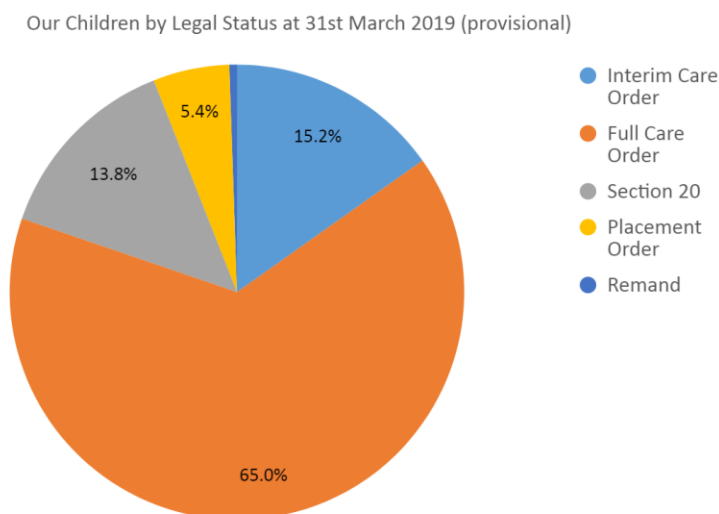
Locally, the number of Our Children aged 16 and 17 years old has increased from 269 at 31 March 2018 to 304 at 31 March 2019. Breakdown in family relations is the most common reason for this cohort of children coming into our care. The IRO Teams have reinforced the crucial importance of

Family Network Meetings and Family Group Conferences as part of the Permanence Framework to enable young people to remain within their wider family. Where this is not possible, IROs promote the need for quality pathway assessment and planning to ensure young people are well supported if their Care Plan is to live in semi-independent accommodation or live independently. This can be evidenced through the Dispute Resolution process which will be considered in more detail later in this report.



In regards to ethnicity there has been an overall increase in children in our care, there has been a slight reduction in the proportion of Our Children who are White or White British (56% to 54%), those who are of dual heritage (20% to 19%), those who are Asian / Asian British (8% to 7%) and an increase in Black / Black British from 13% to 16%.

4.3 Legal status of Our Children at 31 March 2019

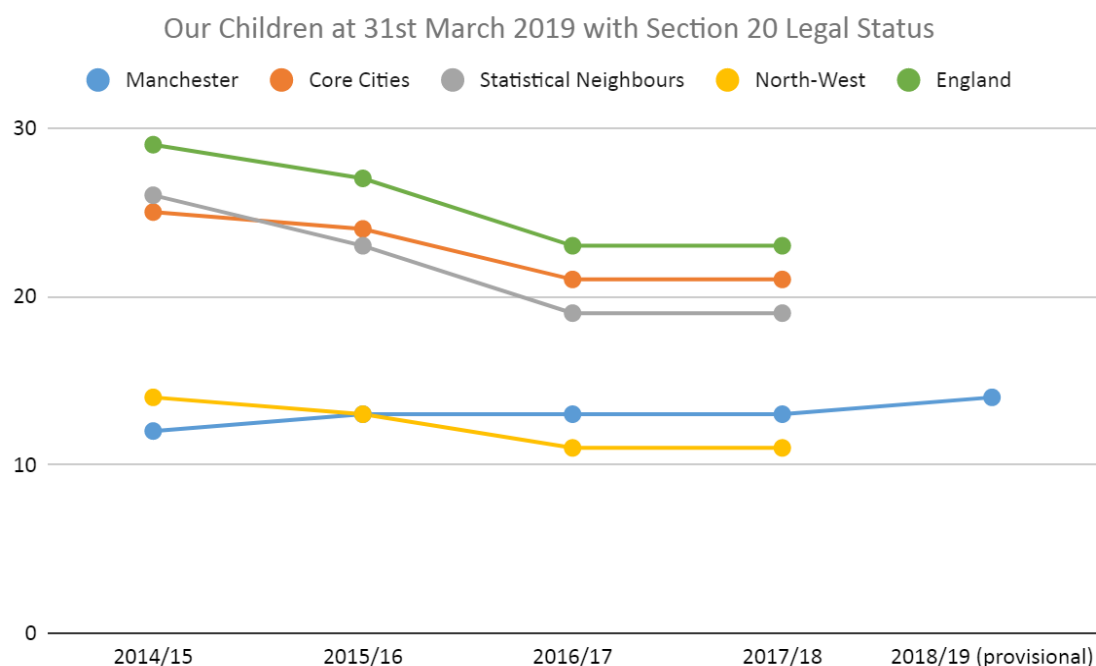


The proportion of children subject to Interim Care Orders (ICO) has risen to 15%. In 2018/2019 we have a total number of children subject to ICO as 196 and in 2017/2018 there was 191. As a

key part of the reviewing process, IROs robustly scrutinise plans for children to ensure no drift or delay in achieving permanence.

The majority of Our Children (65%) are subject to Care Orders. The number has increased by 17 children in this period but still represents 65% as last year. In order to secure permanence for our children there continues to be a focus upon achieving a sense of belonging and stability within one settled family unit for the child. Between March 18 - March 19 there were 25 Care Orders that were discharged due to Special Guardianship Orders and 1 child to a Child Arrangement Orders within wider birth family.

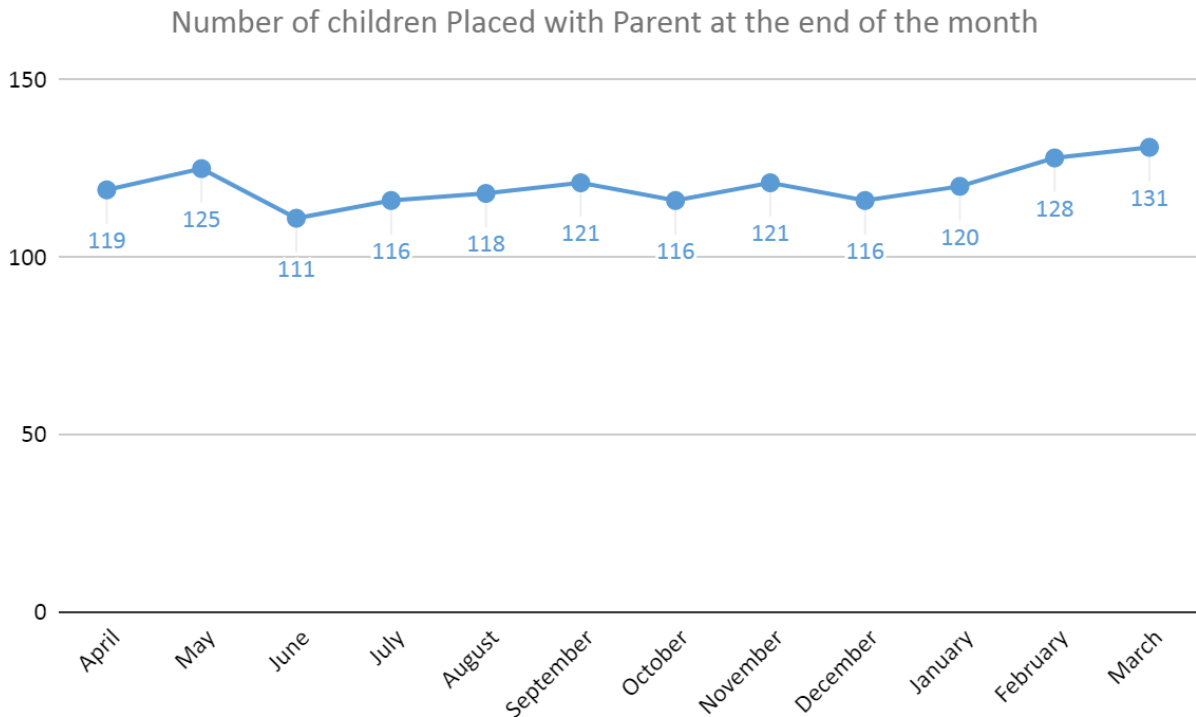
The number of children subject to Placement Orders has remained relatively static over the year and accounts for approximately 5% of Our Children. IROs will ensure the right plan is in place for the child at the right time. They have oversight of the case progression manager's court tracker and permanence trackers in each locality, to be able to challenge where drift and delay is identified with care plans and assessments required for court.



On the 31 March 2019 there were 178 (13.8%) children voluntarily looked after, subject to Section 20 of the 1989 Children Act 1989. Manchester has remained at 13%-14% for the past four years, which is significantly below the level seen nationally (23% in 2017/18).

5. OUR CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES 2018/2019

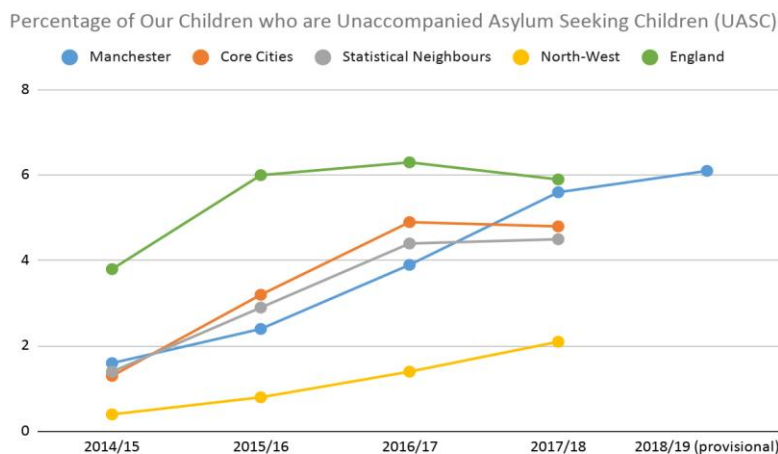
5.1 Placement with Parents



IROs have a key role when considering the appropriateness and safety of a plan for a child to be placed at home subject to a Care Order. This has been an area of increased scrutiny in the last year with a greater number of dispute resolutions. The IROs also monitor and track progress of children placed with parents and subject to Care Orders who can be safely discharged and raise challenge where delay occurs in discharging these Care Orders.

IROs will need to maintain a robust oversight of care plans and support arrangements when endorsing a return home, considering the need for the Care Order to remain or the safety of the rehabilitation.

5.2 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children



The diagram above illustrates the continued increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (USAC) over the last 12 months now reaching a total of 79 which represents

6.1% of Our Children population. The total is 13 more than at the same point last year. The proportion is higher than our Statistical Neighbours (4.5%), the North West Average (2.1%) and Core Cities (4.8%) and the national average (5.9%) for 2017/18.

Due to the continued increase in children and young people in 2018/19, the Safeguarding Improvement Unit now has two identified IROs who have developed expertise in this area of work and a specialist knowledge of the particular needs of this cohort of young people to support the work across the service. This ensures their needs are being met and their rights upheld and promotes greater awareness amongst social work teams. This additional resource provided an opportunity to share and develop expertise in this area.

5.3 Leaving Care

In October 2018 the Leaving Care Service moved back to be managed by Manchester City Council and we have worked hard together to establish a stronger working relationship. There is a greater focus upon the quality of good pathway planning being a comprehensive, well rounded, aspirational plan to meet a young person's individual needs. At 31 March 2019 97.4% of young people either in need of a Pathway Plan or care leavers had a plan in place, with 77.7% of those reviewed within the last six months. This represents an increase from 96.3% at the same point the previous year.

5.4 Children remanded to Custody

The number of Our Children on remand has remained relatively stable. There were 7 at 31 March 2019 which represents a decrease of 1 child in comparison to the end of 2017/18. IROs are responsible for reviewing the Care Plan for this small group of Our Children.

The Safeguarding Improvement Unit has developed strong links with Youth Justice service to enhance IRO understanding of Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act. Leads from the Youth Offending Service have attended the IRO Team meetings and development sessions. There is a recognition of national issues raised re access of young people to sufficient programmes of education and core curriculum subjects. This has been raised as a thematic issue during the year with our colleagues in Youth Justice and IROs ensure this is of focus of Our Children Review meetings.

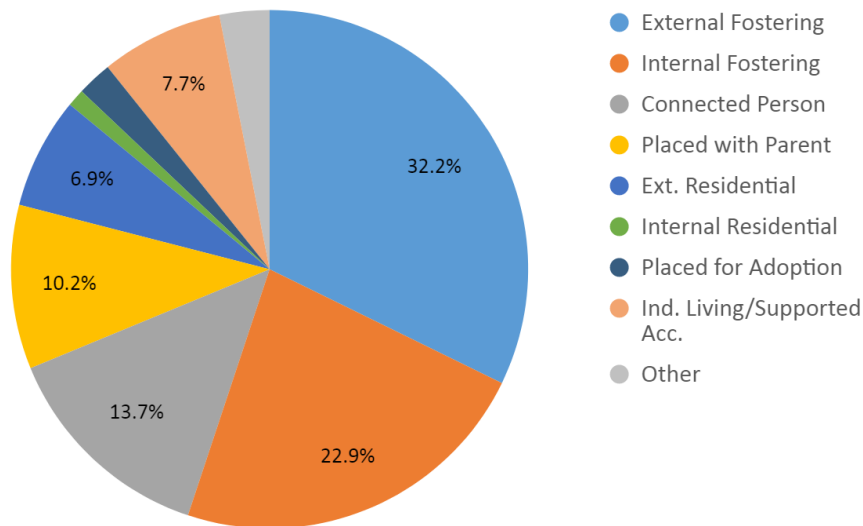
5.5 Our Children subject to a Secure Order

The use of 'secure accommodation' by local authorities is dealt with by section 25 of the Children Act 1989 and the Children (Secure Accommodation) Regulations 1991. In 2018/2019 no children were made the subject of a Secure Order.

6. THE PLACEMENTS OF OUR CHILDREN AT 31 MARCH 2019

6.1 Type of Placement

Our Children by Placement Type at 31st March 2019 (provisional)



The majority of children and young people (69%), continue to be placed in foster care or with connected carers. This is a slightly reduced proportion from last year when it stood at 74%. It remains close to the national figure of 73%.

There continues to be a drive in Manchester to increase the number of our foster carers who can support Our Children within more local areas and be supported by Manchester family placement team and support services. The success of this is reflected in the significant reduction in the percentage of children placed with external foster care from 35% last year to 32% in March 2019.

The percentage of children and young people placed with connected people has decreased in 2018/2019 from 15.6% to 13.7%.

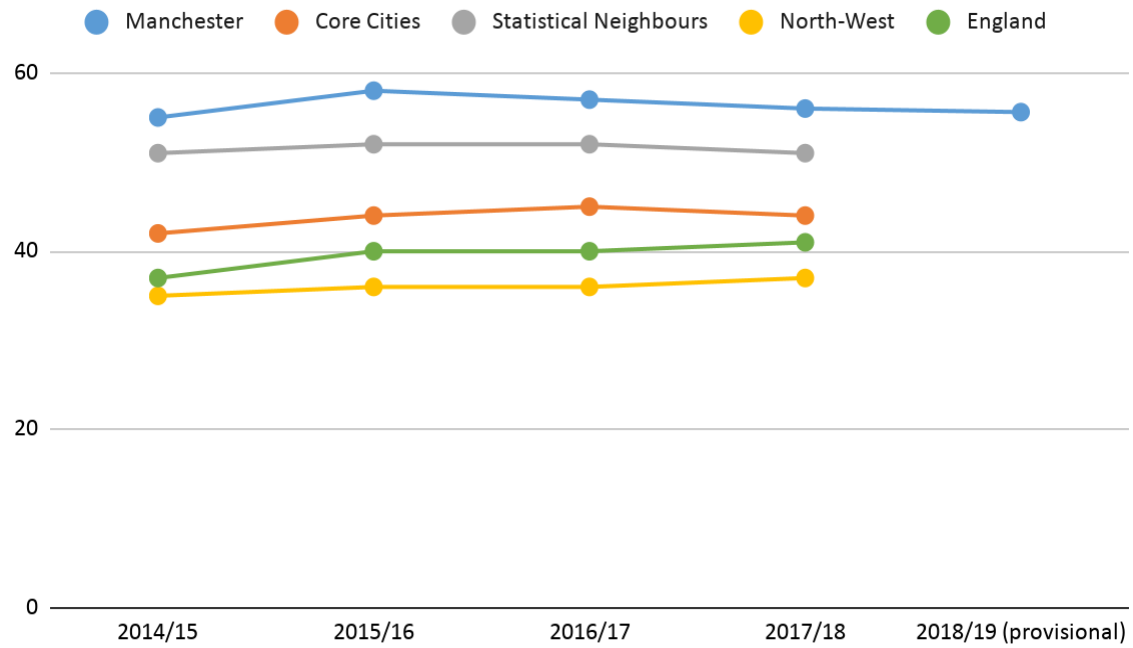
In terms of other placement types there has been an increase in the use of residential care from 7% to 8%.

In the year between 2018/2019 there has been an increase from 28% to 33% in independent living/supported accommodation. Provision of good quality accommodation for young people moving towards leaving care is a current focus for our improvement journey.

6.2 Placement Location and Distance from Home

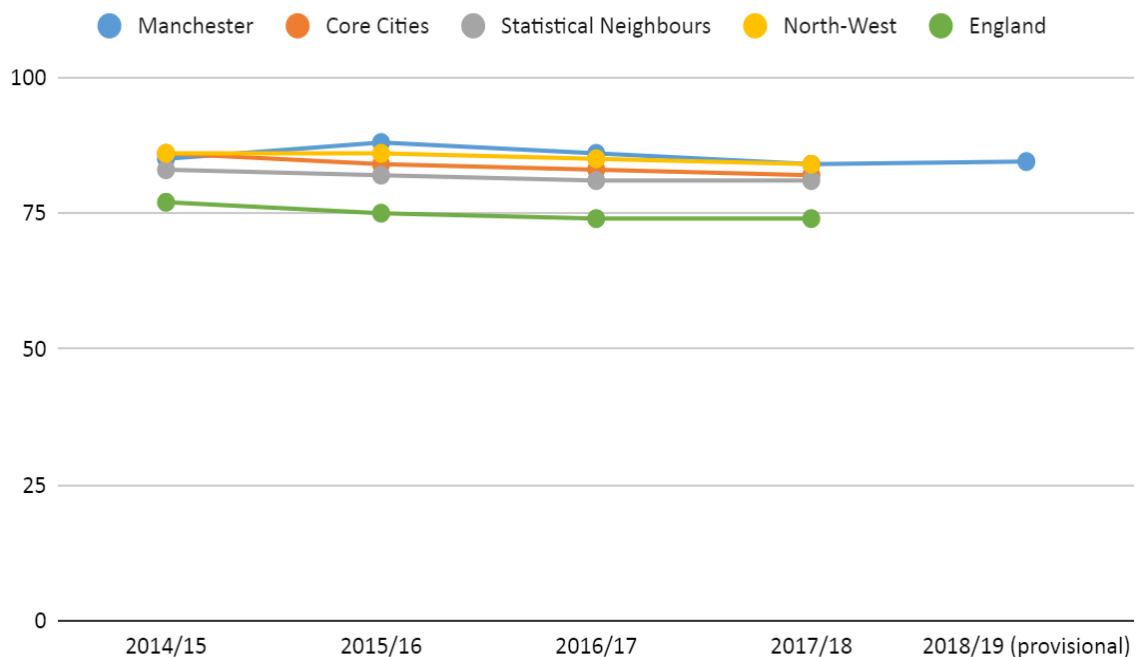
In 2018/19 the percentage of Our Children placed outside Local Authority boundaries in Manchester remained the same as 2017/18 at 56%. Manchester has a higher percentage of children placed outside the Local Authority boundary than its statistical comparators and this may be due to the relatively elongated shape of Manchester. The percentage has remained relatively stable at between 55% to 58% over the last five years.

Percentage of Our Children placed outside the local authority boundary on 31st March



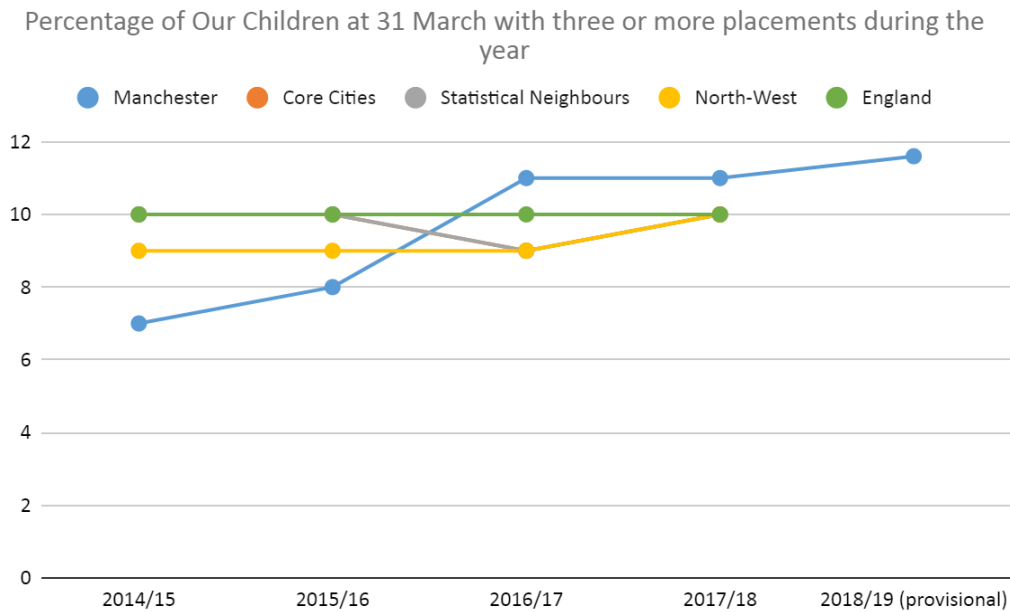
In contrast Manchester's performance in placing children within a 20 miles' radius from their home, remains at the same level as last year, level with the north-west average but better than the national average and other comparators.

Percentage of Our Children placed less than 20 miles from home at 31st March



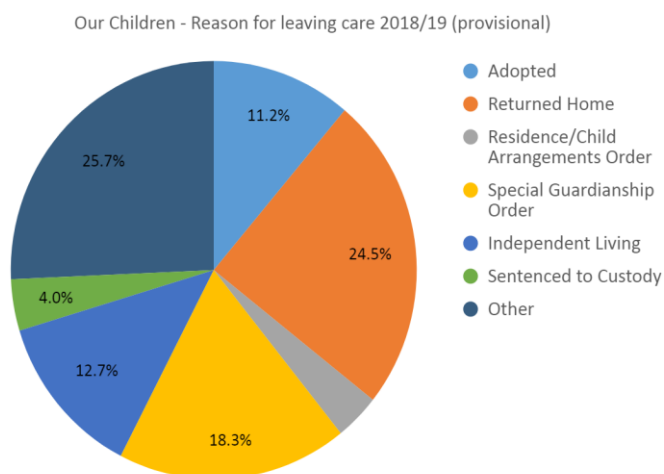
6.3 PLACEMENT STABILITY

6.3.1 Three or more placements



During 2018-2019 placement stability continues to be a challenge for Manchester Children's Services and the percentage of children with three or more placement moves has risen from 11.0% to 11.6%.

6.4 The reasons why Our Children cease to be looked after



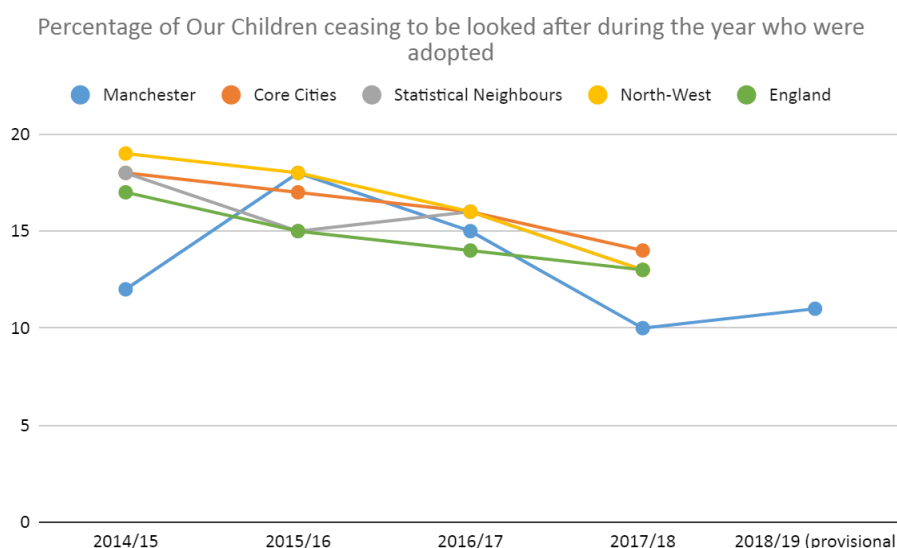
The percentage of children ceasing to be looked after, leaving care for specified reasons in 2018/19 are as follows:

- 24.5% Returned home (a decrease from 35.5% in 2017/18)

- 25.7% Care ceased for any other reason (a decrease from 28.2%)
- 11.2% Adopted (an increase from 10.4%)
- 12.7% Independent living (an increase from 9.8%)
- 18.3% Special Guardianship Order (an increase from 10.8%)
- 3.6% Residence / Child Arrangements Order (the same as last year)
- 4.0% Sentenced to custody (an increase from 1.7%)

The chart below shows that “Other” continues to be the most common outcome for Our Children ceasing to be looked after. IROs have an important role to play in decision making to ensure that rehabilitating at home is in a child’s best interest and that they and their families are provided with high quality support both during the transition period and after.

7. ADOPTION SERVICE



Manchester had 47 children placed for adoption between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 - 37 were placed with Adoption Counts adopters while 10 were placed with external adopters.

The number of children with SHOBPA (Should be Placed for Adoption) decisions has increased in the year 2018/19 to 67 from 65 in 2017/2018.

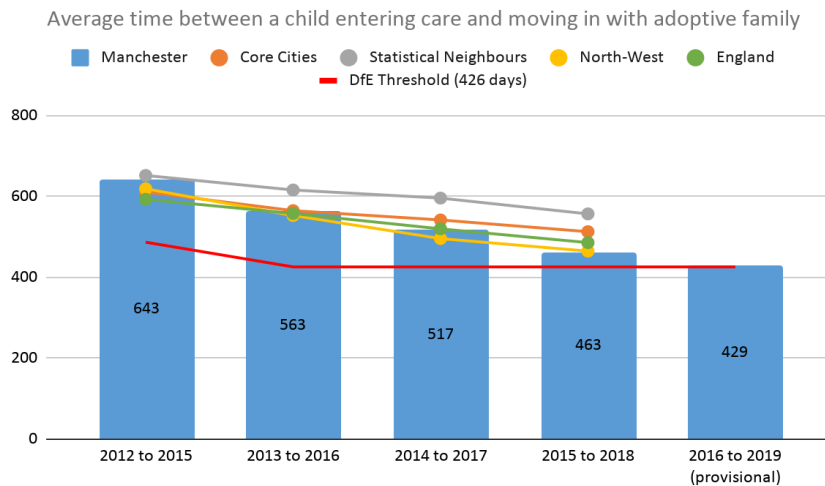
At 31 March 2019 Manchester had 30 children placed for adoption but not yet adopted - 18 placed over 10 weeks

Manchester also had 56 children waiting for adoption but not yet placed (this is anyone with an active SHOBPA who has not been placed for adoption). Of these 56:

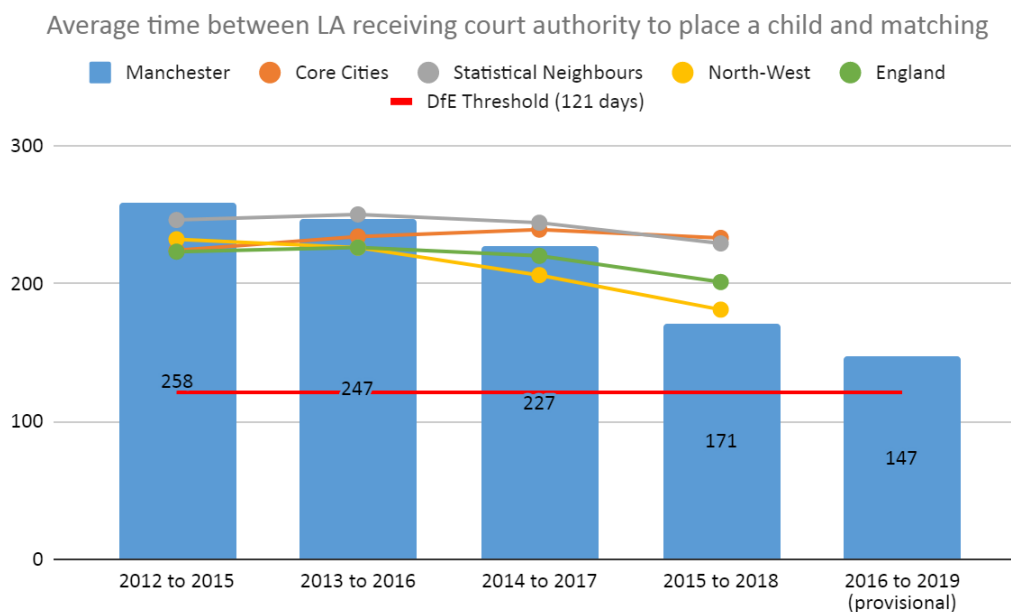
- 15 children have been waiting less than 3 months
- 9 children have been waiting between 3 and 6 months.
- 19 children between 6 and 12 months.
- 8 children have been waiting over 12 months but less than 2 years.

- 5 children had been waiting over 2 years

IROs work closely with the social work teams and the adoption service, Adoption Counts. They have an overview of the progress in respect of timely adoptions and ensure that children who have been waiting for over 9 months are reconsidered at adoption panel, to ensure this plan remains the right one for each child.



There has been continued improvement in the timeliness of adoption during 2018/19, which has had a positive impact on the three year averages measured by the Department for Education in the Adoption Scorecards. As you can see from the above graph the average number of days for a child entering care to being placed with the adoptive family has decreased year on year since the 2012-2015 Scorecard. Provisional 2016 to 2019 data shows that Manchester's performance (429) is now very close to the DfE Threshold of 426 days.



The average number of days between the local authority receiving agreement via the court to place a child for adoption, and matching has also fallen consistently and provisional performance (147) is moving closer to the DfE threshold.

8. SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP

The percentage of looked after children who became subject to Special Guardianship Orders has significantly increased in 2018/19 compared to previous years. Due to a change in how this data is published by the Department for Education it is no longer possible to compare against other local authority groups.

It is important that wherever possible, children should be placed with family members, friends or permanence secured via a Special Guardianship Order with their foster carer. For children who cannot be adopted this enables children to have as normal as life as possible without continued statutory intervention

9. OUR CHILDREN STATUTORY REVIEWS

Practice and services to Our Children and Young People have continued to be improved over the last 12 months. Much of this has been prompted by the continued vigour and pace led by the children's management team and a more focussed IRO Service that is scrutinising practice, plans and arrangements and influencing continuous development and improvement in services. This was recognised in the OFSTED focus visit in October 2018 it was acknowledged that since their last inspection, the local authority has made improvements to the timeliness of statutory requirements, such as reviews.

Achieving permanency at the earliest opportunity through good quality assessment and planning is vital. Permanence is defined in the statutory guidance that accompanies the Children Act 1989 as providing children with:

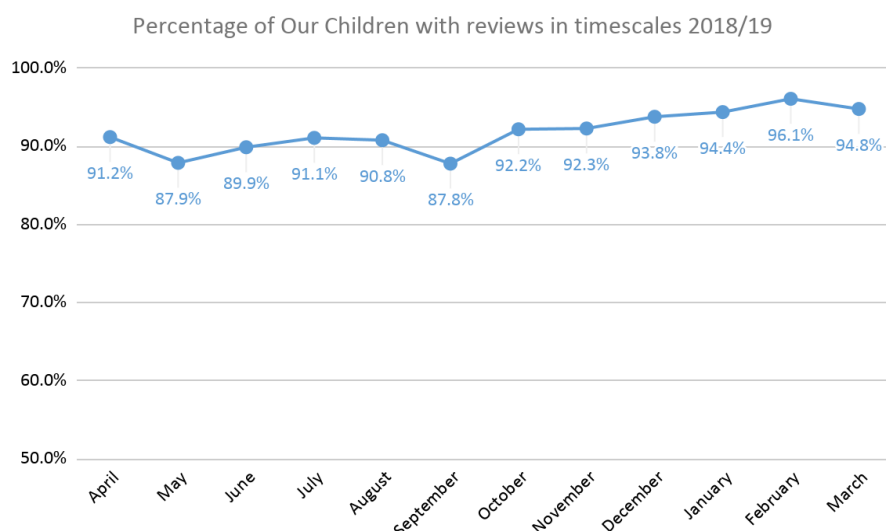
“A sense of security, continuity and identity ...a secure, stable and loving family to support through childhood and beyond.”

Continuing high quality relationships are important for children in care because they;

- Help children build security through developing secure attachments
- Support their ability to form healthy, positive relationships as future adults
- Help children to develop a strong sense of belonging and positive identity.

The role of the IRO is to ensure that planning for permanence commences as soon as a child comes into our care and that all options within the family are explored appropriately. The plan for permanence should be presented at the second review where the IRO will endorse a care plan, if appropriate. It is vital that review of the care plans is timely.

9.1 Timeliness of Our Children Reviews



The performance of Our Children Reviews held in timescale has fluctuated between 87% and 96% over the course of the year. The final end of year figure for 2018-19 as a whole is 91.8%.

Where some Initial Our Children Reviews have taken place out of timescale, this was often linked to a late notifications being received from the allocated Social Worker and difficulties around communication with social workers and worker availability. Other issues which led to reviews taking place outside of time scale, included IROs miscalculating review dates or misunderstanding how reviews can be chaired as a 'series of meetings'. Social workers are now encouraged to email the IRO team managers immediately when a child comes into our care becomes looked after to enable an IRO to be allocated on day one. Cases are allocated to IROs within 24 hours of notification. Additionally IROs have been spoken to with regard to timeliness and the statutory guidance with regard to how a 'series of meetings' should be managed.

New processes have now been put into place to ensure that there is a centralised diary, with every child having the date known centrally for their next review. This was not in place previously and will be kept up to date by the business support unit and overseen by the IRO Managers. IROs are committed to arranging the initial reviews within the 20 day timescale.

9.2 Permanence

IROs are clear about their role and responsibilities to track permanence decisions as soon as the child comes into our care and in-between the first and second Our Children Review looked after children reviews. Achieving Permanence by the second review is a key objective and in line with the Achieving Permanence Framework. In 2018/19 the average figure of children who had a permanence plan identified at the second review was 76%. This is a decrease from 2017/18 when the overall percentage was 80.7%.

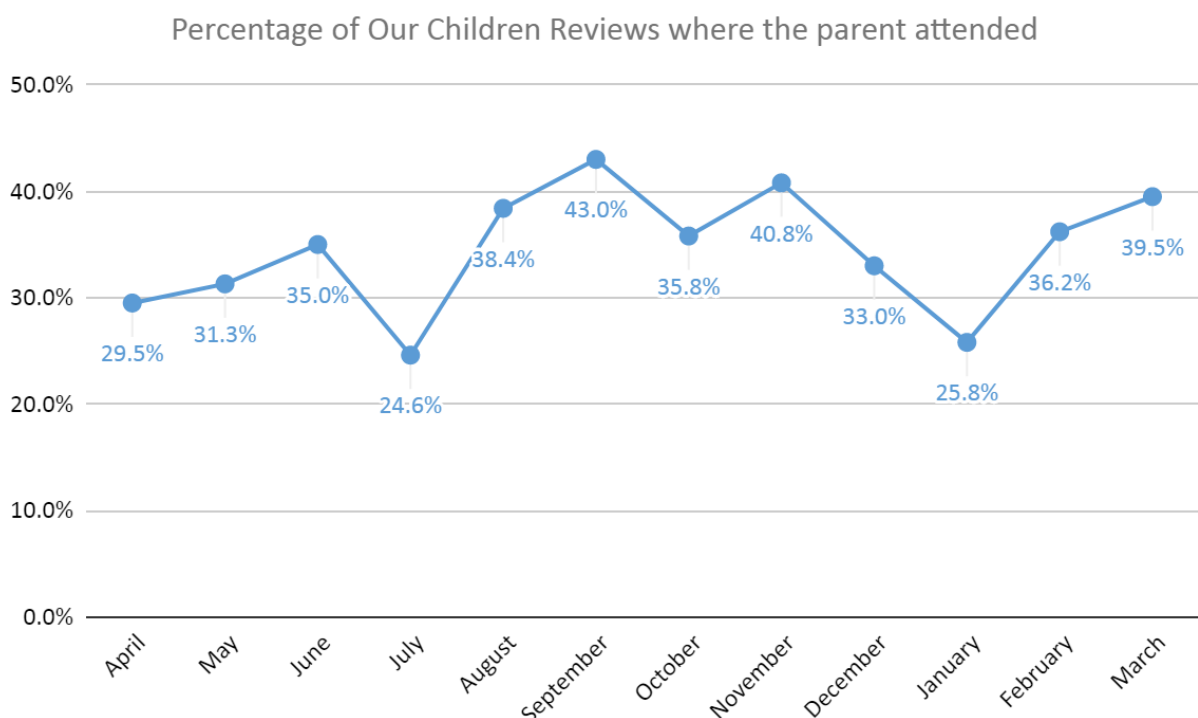
The IRO Service has been part of the planning and implementation of the Our Manchester Our Children - Permanence Planning Policy. There has been an introduction of tracking meetings to prevent delay in permanence being achieved through fostering. Our aim is to achieve

improvements for these young people in line with improved adoption timeliness. IRO involvement in the project has included:

- Observing the Permanence Tracking Panel pilot in the North Locality which is now being rolled out to other locality areas.
- IROs will document when the permanence plan is endorsed or the match with a permanent foster carer is endorsed.
- The 'Chairs Monitoring Record' will now evidence key dates with regard to permanency decisions.
- Our Children and Young People minutes will clearly record the IRO view of the plan, date of endorsement and any challenge, if required.
- IROs will consult with the court progression manager to track cases through the pre-proceedings process to the conclusion of court proceedings.
- IROs will continue to access caselines - e-bundle. This will ensure that they have swifter access to court documents, enabling greater scrutiny of progress within care proceedings.

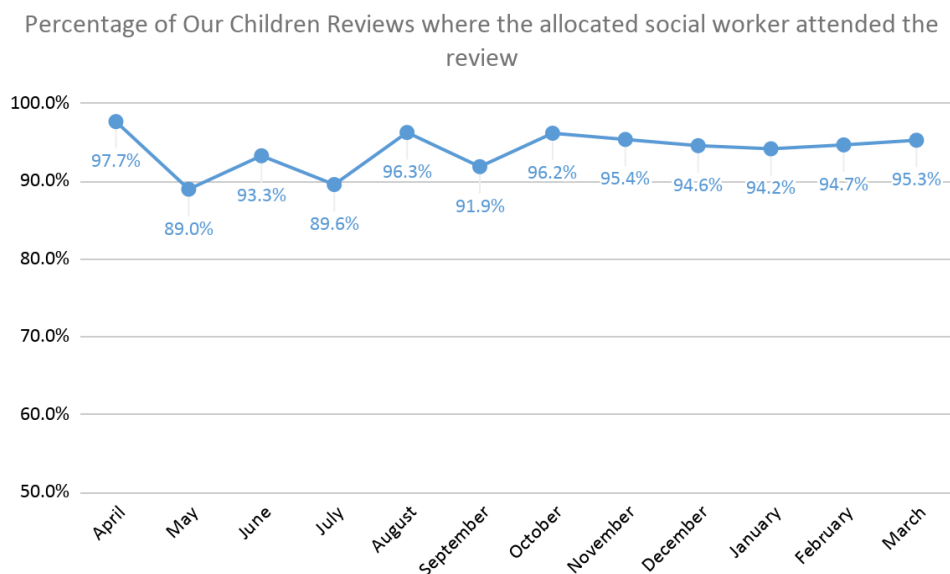
9.3 Parental Participation

We actively encourage parents to engage in the review process, wherever appropriate, as it is important to children that parent(s) can share an understanding of their child's journey and demonstrate a level of commitment and loyalty to their child even if living apart. Performance in this area has fallen slightly from 2017/18 when 35.3% of parents attended their child's review. In 2018/19 the proportion was 34.5%. As part of their over views, IROs strive to ensure appropriate challenge is made regarding efforts to identify the whereabouts of parents who are no longer in touch with social work services. IROs will offer to meet separately or call parents who cannot attend in order to capture the parent's views or care plans and arrangements for their child.



9.4 Social Worker Attendance and Reports to Our Children Reviews

The positive improvement in social work practice in relation to the allocated social worker attending and providing reports to reviews and further improvement in the provision of reports has been maintained this year, supported by IRO scrutiny and the dispute resolution process.

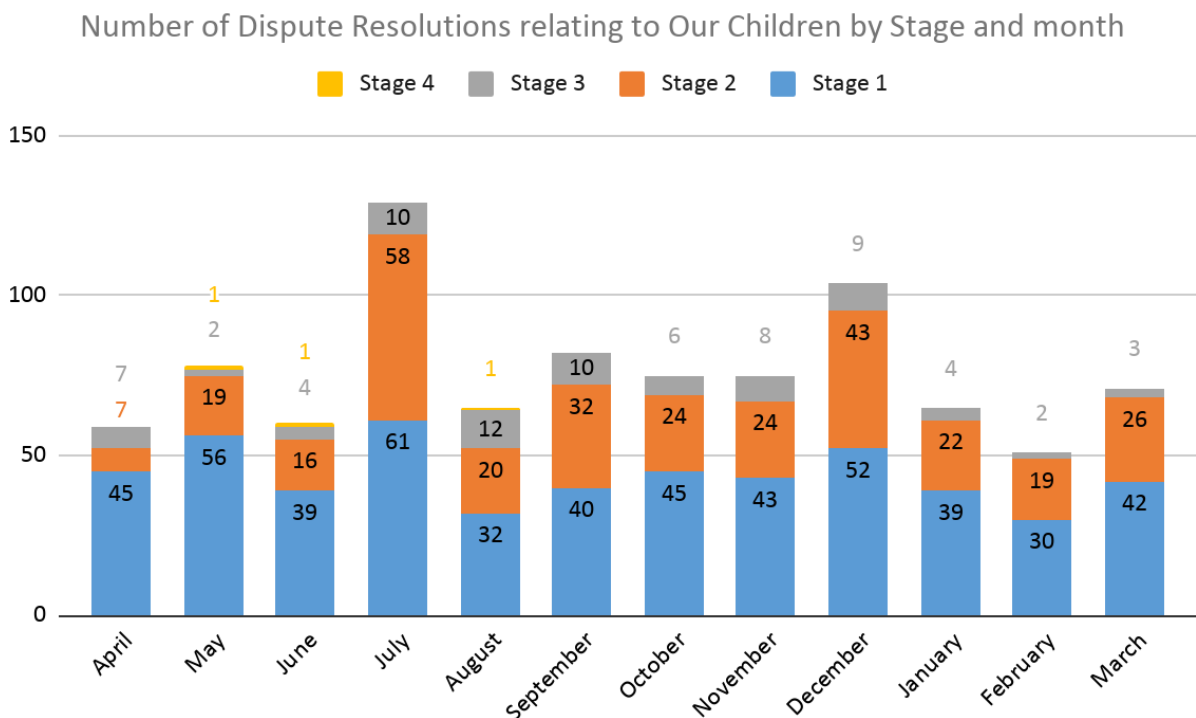
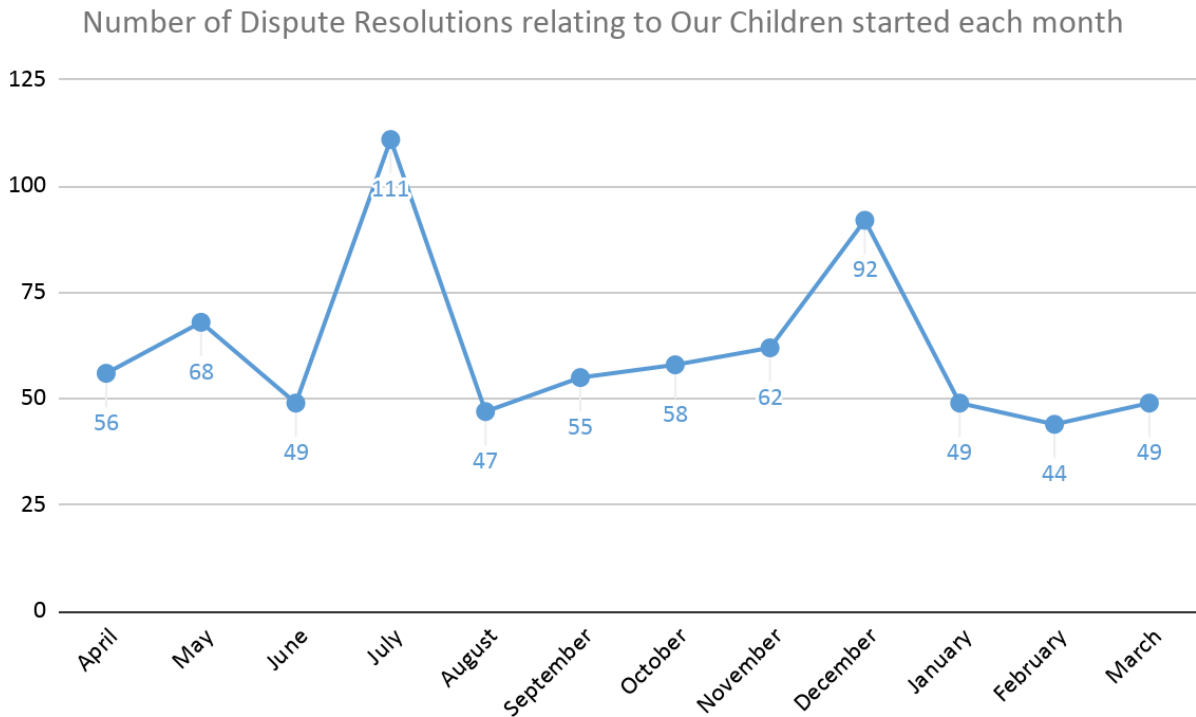


10. Dispute Resolutions

The IRO has a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989, 25B (1) to ensure practice, plans and arrangements for Our Children and Young People are consistent with their individual needs and welfare and that the local authority is fulfilling its legal responsibilities towards the children.

In accordance to the IRO's Handbook, escalations are vital to quality assure the overall effectiveness of services to our children and young people. Escalations can result from issues, actions or questions that the IRO has raised within the review process but have not been addressed.

The IROs engage with colleagues across Social Work teams to resolve issues at the earliest opportunity and in a timely manner informally wherever possible. Where there has been no timely response or where resolution cannot be reached the issue will be escalated through a six stage process. The aim is for issues to be resolved at the earliest opportunity but always within 20 working days as per statutory IRO handbook guidance.



The overall number of disputes is showing a reduction towards the year end. The second graph gives the data on how many dispute resolutions have been completed in the month at each stage of the process. The data demonstrates that the service is responsive to the dispute and escalation protocol, with the vast majority of disputes raised by the SIU reaching a satisfactory resolution at stage 1 and 2 of the process. In addition no disputes reached stage 5 of the dispute process (Strategic Lead for Safeguarding to Strategic Director for Children's Services).

The key themes for 2018/19 in relation to dispute resolution relate to attendance at reviews, quality of recording and the progression of children's care plans. The themes from disputes have been fully considered by the service and reflect the priorities that have been set for 2019/20. These include permanence planning for children and quality of practice:

- With regard to planning for permanence, a revised framework was implemented in October 2018 - *Our Manchester, Our Children - Securing Permanence: Policy, Procedure and Practice*, with a strategy to address 4 key areas:
 1. **Creating a robust performance information structure;**
 2. **Tracking Individual cases;**
 3. **Redesigning work processes, procedures and guidance in order to support improved practice;**
 4. **Ensuring that the skills and knowledge of the workforce support robust planning for children.**
- In relation to quality of practice the Quality Assurance Framework has been fully revised and implemented in September 2019 which focuses on driving quality social work practice across Children's Social Care, Early Help and Youth Justice Services. The SIU play a key role in the new framework with newly aligned and dedicated links to the localities. The aim of this is to strengthen and support the drive on practice improvement.

11. WORKING WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

Quarterly meetings continue to take place with our colleagues in health who are responsible for ensuring good health outcomes for Our Children and Young People and we also have strong links with the 'Virtual School', CAFCASS and Youth Justice who attend our IRO team meetings to work together and drive up practice standards.

We continue to drive the ePEP tool, which has been the vehicle through which the Virtual School has sought the views of Our Children and Young People about their education, employment and training, their aspirations and the wider aspects of their lives. The team were very pleased that Ofsted acknowledged that PEPs for Our Children and Young People "effectively capture the voice of the child". The Virtual School's aspiration for the use of the ePEP system has always been that we are not only able to ensure that the views of individual young people are heard and responded to but also that we are able to collate, analyse and consider the collective views of all of Our Children and Young People and to identify education and wider service improvement requirements arising from them.

In regards to other key partners we have developed a closer working relationship with CAFCASS over the last 2 years. There is a shared commitment to ensure that IROs and Children's Guardians develop productive working relationships to ensure the best outcomes for children. CAFCASS will continue to be invited to Service Development Days and Team Meetings. CAFCASS attended the June 2018 Service Development Day. The aim is to maintain twice yearly direct contact between the two services. As a result we now have oversight of the Supervision orders for the 12 months that provides an independent oversight to effectiveness of the order.

Agencies are regularly invited to the IRO Team meetings. In 2018 -19 attendees from Barnardos, the Virtual School, Health, Legal and Adoption Counts were some of the agencies invited.

The IROs and their managers attend and contribute to the following multi agency meetings:

- Corporate Parenting Panel.
- The Virtual School Board.
- Missing from Home Panels.
- Voice and Influence sub group.
- North West Regional IRO meetings.
- Mind Of My Own Implementation Group meetings.
- Permanence Tracking Meetings for each district of Manchester

12. IRO Impact in 2018 / 2019.

In 2018/2019 we have continued to strive to deliver a high quality service to Our Children. We have achieved the following:



Stable workforce

We have been fortunate in the IRO service that we have had little movement amongst staffing over the last twelve months and this has been a trend of the previous years. The IRO in 2018/2019 have worked within the statutory guidelines for caseloads. This has allowed IROs to invest in visiting the children and ensuring that they are engaged in their reviews.



Successfully continue to drive a child friendly review process, which includes minutes being written to the child and reflects the child or young person's understanding.

We have worked with our partners to ensure that the review meetings are focused on and celebrate the progress and success of our children. IROs have recorded the meeting details as a personal letter to the child to increase their understanding of their care plans. Our children have told us that they enjoy receiving these letters and have a better understanding of what is going on in their lives.



A high percentage of children participate before and during their care planning review meetings.

IROs have encouraged young people to give their opinion about how their care plan is meeting their needs through a range of methods. We strive to have face to face conversations with their IRO visiting. Where young people choose to communicate in other ways, we have offered online feedback, telephone discussions about their care plan and /or they complete their 'have your say booklet'. We use strength based conversations with children to build confidence to be able to

attend or co -chair reviews.



Our Children Reviews are timely.

We have developed our communication with social work teams to ensure that we are aware of children who have become looked after are known to us within 24 hours and an IRO can be allocated to arrange their reviews in advance of an electronic notification. This ensures we have more time to consult with children about their own agenda and arrangements for their meeting. Our centralised tracking system for all reviews, through business support, will alert IROs and managers when meetings are due.



IRO contribution to Permanence planning for children has improved.

This means that IROs have the opportunity to share their views in the progress of permanence plans for our children directly with Service Leads who chair the tracking meetings in their area. In addition to dispute resolutions, this is an early opportunity to highlight where any drift or delay has been identified, or IROs wish to offer challenge to local authority planning.



Mind of My Own has been implemented and used by Independent Reviewing Officers to engage with children and young people.

IROs have encouraged our young people to engage in this form of communication so that they can give feedback to their social worker or IRO using technology. IROs also routinely use the app with the young person to build confidence and model its use.



The Have Your Say Booklet has been updated this year and is strength based.

In consultation with our young people, we have redesigned our Have your say booklets to make them easier to read with questions that the young people felt were most important to them in each area of their lives, including where they live, school, health and visits to family. We have adopted language preferred by the young people to describe their living arrangements and care plans.

13. KEY PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2019/2020

In 2019/2020 we will continue to work relentlessly in ensuring 'Our Children' experiences of being looked after is positive and that they are healthy, happy, safe and successful. The Safeguarding

Improvement Unit should use their expertise to ensure that children and young people's plans are smart and thrive to achieve positive outcomes.

<p>Our Goals - What Good Looks like - Practice Improvement Approach</p> <p>In early 2019 we have driven the “Golden Threads” as the vehicle to provide a clear focus on the key standards for improving the quality of practice in getting to Good. The Golden Threads will become embedded into the revised Quality Assurance Framework throughout 2019/2020 and the foundation for practice improvement. The Golden Threads are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good Quality Assessments - Good Quality Plans - Impact chronology supports decision making - Good management oversight - Voice and experience of child / young person evident throughout - Evidence of strong engagement with parents, family and carers throughout our involvement. <p>We promise as IROs that we will share our expertise to demonstrate what good looks like using the Golden Threads as a vehicle.</p> <p>We will ensure that the are timely and thrive to get 90% of recommendations on the child's file within 5 days of their review. We will improve the % of review minutes sent out within 20 working days.</p>	<p>What we will Do</p> <p>We will ensure that all children have up to date good quality assessments that influence the care plans. When this is not evident we will provide appropriate support and challenge using the expertise of the IRO to drive practice improvement.</p> <p>We will provide scrutiny of care plans by providing regular oversight to ensure they focus on ensuring children's holistic needs are being met and permanence is achieved. This will be strengthened by the engagement of the monthly audits.</p> <p>We will contribute to the Quality Assurance Framework and participate in monthly audits and the feedback from the audits to influence practice.</p> <p>We will bring to the attention through strong links with localities examples of good and poor practice through regular bio-monthly locality quality of practice meetings.</p> <p>We will continue to utilise the dispute resolution process to drive better outcomes for children and young people. This includes driving informal resolutions on key practice themes.</p> <p>Continue to work within a strength based model - Signs of Safety.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring that the IRO caseloads remain within the standards set out in the IRO handbook to ensure effective work.</p> <p>We will ensure our IT systems support IROs to communicate with children, carers, parents and professionals in a timely way following a review.</p>
<p>How will we evidence success / Impact</p> <p>Throughout 2019/2020 we hope to see better quality assessments are children and young people's case records that demonstrate the impact of the Social Care intervention on improving their outcomes.</p>	

We hope by engaging in the Quality Assurance Framework we can learn from audits to influence improved practice that clearly articulates the child's voice and lived experience.

<p>Our Goals - Strengthening participation</p> <p>We will look in 2019/2020 to engage children and young people more creatively to participate and/or chair their own reviews. This includes ensuring children and young people feel they are being listened too.</p> <p>We aim to improve the timeliness of Children's Meetings to 98% in timescale.</p> <p>To increase the percentage of Our Children and Young People seen by their IRO within 6 weeks of their meeting to 80%.</p> <p>We will work at increasing the number of parents engaging in children's reviews</p> <p>We will engage better children and young people in participating in the delivery of the services.</p>	<p>What we will Do</p> <p>The IROs will continue to visit all children allocated to them before their reviews and ask them to set the agenda, think about attendees and venue. By building supportive relationships and trust this will assist children and young people to feel more confident in co-chairing.</p> <p>The IROs and managers will continue to support young people to chair their reviews. Other creative ways have been explored that could help increase the influence young people are able to exercise in their own review and planning.</p> <p>To continue to champion Mind Of My Own with Our Children and Young People and professionals.</p> <p>To ensure that Our Children and Young People are routinely offered an advocate and an Independent Visitor.</p> <p>We will continue to promote the engagement of parents in the child's meeting by making contact prior to the meeting and/or after the meeting.</p> <p>In 2019/2020 we will invite children and young people to be involved in decision making around service delivery by involving them in recruitment and learning and development of IROs.</p>
<p>How will we evidence success / Impact</p> <p>Through the quality assurance framework, Safeguarding Improvement Unit has a greater role in the auditing of children's records city wide. We aim to be able to demonstrate an increase in the number of children who attend their reviews and show how the wishes and feelings of our young people is being taken into account and able to influence their plans. We will work with NYAS to ensure children are getting the right support at the right times in their lives and gain feedback on the service offered.</p>	

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<p>Our Goal - Actively seeking Feedback</p> <p>We will invest further in 2019/2020 to utilise varying tool for obtaining feedback starting with articulating the service offer to children, young people, parents and carers so that they feel invested in the service and know what they are providing feedback on. We will use this information to learn about the impact we have had on improving outcomes for children & young people and this will feed into improving service delivery.</p> <p>We will concentrate on how we reach out to parents who have reduced or ceased their involvement with the social work service. To encourage them to continue to take an active part in planning for their child.</p>	<p>What we will Do</p> <p>To develop feedback forms for parents to identify and address barriers to their attendance.</p> <p>To develop feedback forms for professionals who attend children's reviews.</p> <p>To collate the information on the feedback from our children and young people about their Independent Reviewing Officer, their meeting and evidence changes in practice as a result.</p> <p>Will we drive Mind of my Own as an app to capture 'How did the meeting go', which provides a great opportunity to capture the views post meeting. It asks young people questions such as how they feel the meeting went, if they understood everything that was said, if they want anyone to re-explain anything from the meeting again.</p> <p>We will find creative ways to engage with parents prior and after the review, such as sending emails / text messages asking for comments and feedback.</p>
<p>How will we evidence success / Impact</p> <p>The service we deliver will be delivered with a greater insight into the experience of children, young people, parents and carers and that will see better engagement throughout the involvement with the unit.</p>	

<p>Our Goal - Promoting Stability</p>	<p>What we will Do</p>
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<p>We will promote the importance of placement stability as being critical for the emotional wellbeing of Our Children and Young People'. We will drive the importance of Our Children build relationships and investing in their future through secure placements and investment in their local community.</p>	<p>We will provide training in regards to Adverse Childhood Experience for all IROs to develop their knowledge on the effects of ACE.</p> <p>IROs scrutinise plans and arrangements for foster carer support at reviews to promote access to training for foster carers to build ongoing stability.</p> <p>As part of IRO scrutiny we will ensure that the right placement is identified for the child in the first instance through early planning and ensure children's rights to be part of that process and meet with potential carers is promoted.</p>
<p>How will we evidence success / Impact</p> <p>Children will remain in settled and secure placement with less disruption.</p>	

<p>Our Goal - Pathway Plans driving ambition</p> <p>We aim to focus on strengthening our oversight of Pathways Plans. We know that Pathway Needs Assessment and Plans assist young people to move successfully into independence and we will make this a priority for 2019/2020 to improve the quality of pathway plans.</p>	<p>What we will do</p> <p>The IROs will ensure through regular oversight that the Pathway Needs Assessment are completed with the young people and provide an analysis of the young person's education journey, including EHCP, successes, ambitions, predictions and desired outcomes.</p> <p>The IROs will oversee the plan at every review to ensure there are clear goals for young people, specific to continuing success or improving outcomes; whilst realising goals and ambitions.</p> <p>IROs can decide to hold a further post 18 Pathway plan review when they are not satisfied that plans and arrangements are secure enough to meet the young person's needs.</p>
<p>How will we evidence success / Impact</p> <p>IROs will consistently scrutinise Pathway plans at each care plan review for young people over 16yrs. We will see young person contributing to their plan and owning the short and long term goals. This means that young people will be confident citizens when turning 18 and be successful in independence.</p>	

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<p>Our Goal - Permanence Practice Promise</p> <p>We promise in 2019/2020 we will drive the Our Manchester Permanence Practice promise of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanence from Day 1 • Least Interventionist Approach • Purposeful drive at pace to ensure plans are in place • Everyone's responsibility to get it right - working collaboratively 	<p>What we will Do</p> <p>We will continue to ensure that children have their permanence plan identified by their second review and that it is robust with a contingency plan in place. We will have a relentless focus to ensure there is a clear permanence plan evidenced.</p> <p>We will work closely with the Social Work teams to ensure that through high challenge and high support coaching for better outcomes for children and young people.</p> <p>Ensure that we continue to have a focus on "Our Promise" for securing permanence.</p> <p>We will continue to improve the IRO footprint on unaccompanied asylum seeking children's file and evidence more frequent overview between meetings.</p>
<p>How will we evidence success / Impact</p> <p>Children will achieve a timely permanency plan so that they are happy, healthy, safe and successful in life.</p>	

REFERENCES / Key Documents for further reading

IRO handbook: statutory guidance for independent reviewing officers and local authorities on their functions in relation to case management and review for looked children, Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), 2010 (pp 9–12);

www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/childrenincare/a0065612/independent-reviewing-officers-iros

National Children's Bureau. The Role of Independent Reviewing Officers Report 2014.

http://www.ncb.org.uk/media/1124381/ncb_the_role_of_independent_reviewing_officers_in_england_-_final2.pdf

Adoption and Children Act 2002, section 118;

www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption/b0067811/adoption-legislation/adoption-and-children-act-2002

The care planning, placement and case review (England) regulations, Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2010;

www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00185-2010

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 4 December 2019

Subject: Manchester Safeguarding Partnership (formally reported on as Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements)

Report of: Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

Summary

This report provides an update to the report and presentation to Scrutiny Committee on 5th February 2019, which outlined the proposals to respond to the statutory guidance contained in Chapter 4, Working Together 2018 Improving Child Protection and Safeguarding Practice for children and young people. These changes were published on 30th June 2019 and plan for them to be implemented on 30th September 2019. The report was presented by Strategic Director of Children's Services, Manchester Health Care Commissioning (CCG) and Greater Manchester Police to reflect the requirement for the three statutory safeguarding partners to share responsibility for the new arrangements.

It has been agreed the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements would be known as the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership. The Manchester Safeguarding Partnership replaces the Manchester Safeguarding Board that fulfilled the statutory requirements of Local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board. The statutory requirements for children and young people within Working Together 2018 have been utilised to bring together the safeguarding children and safeguarding adult activity together under one overarching framework referred to as Manchester Safeguarding Partnership. The integrated safeguarding arrangements will provide a streamlined and seamless approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults and children in Manchester. Whilst Working Together 2018 is the statutory driver for the change regarding the arrangements for Improving Child Protection and Safeguarding Practice, the requirements of the Care Act 2014 for Safeguarding Adult Boards are embedded within the new arrangements.

This report details the progress since February 2019, the new arrangements and plans to continue this work.

In addition, further to Manchester Safeguarding Children Board commission of the Local Government Association to undertake an Independent Peer Review in respect of the Complex Safeguarding Hub and response to Child Sexual Exploitation, a summary of findings were presented to Scrutiny Committee members on 4th September 2019. Appendix 2 provides a summary of progress in respect of the areas for development and specifically those relating to governance, quality assurance and practice.

Recommendations

Scrutiny Committee members are invited to:

1. Consider the report and seek assurance with regard to the progress of the implementation of new arrangements and associated effectiveness.
2. Recognise the progress that continues to be made in respect of the Complex Safeguarding Hub and response to Child Sexual Exploitation and for the 2019/20 annual Complex Safeguarding Report to have an emphasis on quality of practice and impact.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

None

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Ensuring children and vulnerable adults have access to services that are responsive to need and optimise the conditions within which they can thrive and contribute
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Removing barriers to achieving potential and supporting aspirations
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Ensuring fair access to services through recognition of need and risk
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Contributing to a safe and healthy community and environment
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	To ensure that learning is achieved and used to support a culture of continual improvement

Contact Officer:

Name: Julie Daniels
 Position: Strategic Lead for Safeguarding
 Telephone: 0161 234 1075
 E-mail: Julie.daniels@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

1. Manchester Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MMASA) Published June 2019
2. Manchester Safeguarding Partnership – Update on Manchester’s Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements – To be published November 2019
3. Manchester Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018-19
4. Child Sexual Exploitation Report presented to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 4th September 2019

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Manchester Safeguarding Partnership has been designed to ensure that there is a streamlined and seamless approach to safeguarding vulnerable children and adults. The Manchester Safeguarding Partnership is working towards embedding a consistent approach and common language across child and adult facing workforce in order to promote a wide and contextual safeguarding approach from strategy through to individual safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable adults and children.
- 1.2 The local partnership arrangements support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:
- Vulnerable children and adults at risk of, or experiencing harm, are safeguarded, and their welfare is promoted;
 - partner organisations and agencies effectively collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children and adults;
 - organisations and agencies can offer respectful challenge and hold one another to account;
 - there is early identification and analysis of any emerging safeguarding themes;
 - Local agencies are reflective for the purpose of continuous improvement;
 - Learning is embedded as a means to maximising safe outcomes for vulnerable children and adults.
- 1.3 The focus of the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership is to promote the rights of children and vulnerable adults to live safely and be protected from harm. Whilst the new legislative requirements relate to safeguarding for children, Manchester took this as an opportunity to strengthen the joint safeguarding arrangements for children and vulnerable adults in order to ensure maximise opportunity for a shared approach to implementing principles of best practice.
- 1.4 A key function of the new partnership arrangements is to create a programme of continuous improvement by learning from practice. Primarily learning from practice will be achieved through child safeguarding practice reviews, safeguarding adult reviews, thematic multi-agency learning alongside audit and other quality assurance activity. To ensure efficiency of learning into practice, the work of the subgroups will feed into the Locality Practice Fora and any issues that are preventing progress to practice developments will be reported via the Locality Practice Fora to Accountabilities and Leadership Board.

2.0 Background

2.1 Legislative Requirement for Change

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 required safeguarding partners for Local Authority areas to implement local arrangements which exercised their

functions to work together for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area. The Act was supported by revised statutory Working Together 2018 which came into effect on 29 June 2018. The Act establishes collective and equal responsibility and accountability for partnership safeguarding arrangements across three chief officers within the Local Authority, the clinical commissioning group (CCG), and the police. The chief officers are known as the 'safeguarding partners', in Manchester this relates to the Chief Executive Manchester City Council, Chief Accountable Officer – Manchester Health Care Commissioning, and Chief Superintendent Greater Manchester Police.

2.1.1 The Care Act 2014 outlines that:

- Each local authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB);
- The objective of a Safeguarding Adult Board is to help and protect adults in its area;
- the way in which a Safeguarding Adult Board must seek to achieve its objective is by coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does; and
- A Safeguarding Adult Board may do anything that appears to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective.

2.1.2 The Safeguarding Adults Executive Group will fulfil the function of the Safeguarding Adults Board on behalf of the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership.

2.1.3 Working Together 2018 has replaced previous statutory guidance with regard to Serious Care Reviews with a requirement to undertake Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Working Together includes provision for reviews of serious child safeguarding cases at both local and national level. In 2018 a new National Panel for Child Safeguarding Practice Review was set up by the Department for Education. This is an independent panel which can commission reviews of serious child safeguarding cases where they are considered complex and /or in the national interest.

2.1.4 Serious child safeguarding cases are those in which abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has died or been seriously harmed. Where the Local Authority knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected, the Local Authority must notify the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 5 working days if (a) the child dies or is seriously harmed in the Local Authority's area (b) while normally resident in the Local area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.

2.1.5 When suspicious circumstances apply, the safeguarding partners must undertake a rapid review of the case which should be shared with the National Panel for Child Safeguarding Review. On receipt of this information, the National Panel for Child Safeguarding Review must decide

whether it is appropriate to commission a national review of the case based on specific criteria and consideration. When a decision is taken to undertake a national review, the panel will engage with local safeguarding partners regarding the potential scope and methodology of the review and how they will engage with local professionals involved with the case.

- 2.1.6 The rapid review process will reach a determination as to whether a local child safeguarding practice review is recommended. In contrast to previous arrangements, meeting the criteria for a review does not mean that safeguarding partners must automatically carry out a local child safeguarding practice review. The local partnership has the authority to determine whether a review is appropriate taking into account the overall purpose of the review is to identify improvements to practice. Decisions on whether to undertake reviews will be made transparently with the rationale communicated transparently including to families. In Manchester, the final determination whether a review should be undertaken will be made by the Independent Chair of the Partnership following recommendation by the Rapid Review undertaken by the Child Practice Review Panel.
- 2.1.7 Working Together 2018 sets out updated requirements regarding child deaths and the Child Death Overview Panel. The responsibility for ensuring child deaths are carried out is held by the 'child death review partners', who in relation to a Local Authority in England are defined as the Local Authority for that area and any clinical commissioning groups in that area. The purpose of child death reviews is to identify any matters relating to a child's death that are relevant to the welfare of children in the area or to the public health and safety and to consider what action should be taken in relation to any matters identified.
- 2.1.8 Child death review partners in Manchester are Chief Executive Officer, Manchester City Council, Accountable Officer and Manchester Health Care Commissioning.

2.2 Vision

During the 'transition' period (June to September 2019) a joint vision for Manchester's Safeguarding Partnership has developed and agreed a joint vision statement; which was endorsed at the Accountabilities and Leadership Board meeting held in November 2019. The Manchester Safeguarding Partnership's vision is:

"Working together to create a place where all children and adults in Manchester are safe and free from abuse and neglect and supported to live happy and healthy lives"

2.3 Key Activities/Events Since February 2019

The following activities and events have taken place since February 2019.

- 2.3.1 An Interim Assurance and Learning Lead was appointed April 2019. This post is responsible for managing the business unit for the partnership which consists of 6.5 FTE coordinators and FTE business support workers. This post is out for permanent recruitment.
- 2.3.2 Previous Independent Chair left position in July 2019. Although the initial planning for new arrangements did not intend to replace the role of Independent chair, this position changed as the new arrangements were considered in detail and the role of an Independent Chair was determined as necessary to ensure a level of objective challenge and scrutiny to the partnership arrangements and safeguarding partners. A new independent chair, Dr Henri Gillier, has been successfully recruited and commenced in post on 7th November 2019.
- 2.3.3 Manchester's Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MMASA) document was approved by the statutory safeguarding partners and published on 29 June 2019.
- 2.3.4 An Implementation Project Group was established and led by the Strategic Director Children and Education Services with membership from agency key agency safeguarding leads and senior officers. This work has achieved:
- Development of the infrastructure to support the new arrangements which include a consistent approach across adults and children partnerships.
 - Completing terms of reference and membership for each part of the process.
 - Review and arrangements to complete legacy Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) within timescales for transitional arrangements.
 - Decision made to call new arrangements Manchester Safeguarding Partnership not MMASA and new logo.
 - Update to MMASA publication (June 2019) to reflect above developments. A new updated document regarding the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership has been finalised and is due to be published by the end of November 2019.
- 2.3.5 A series of workshops were undertaken with the joint Manchester Safeguarding Board led by an Independent Consultant with a focus on the role of Independent scrutiny, future partnership priorities and the partnerships underpinning philosophy to inform plans and decision making.
- 2.3.6 Workshops have taken place with key groups, subgroups and locality practice fora to inform of the new arrangements.
- 2.3.7 29th September 2019 DfE confirm Manchester Safeguarding Partnership implementation of new arrangements.
- 2.3.8 7th November 2019 Dr Henri Giller became the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership Independent Chair. The Independent Chair will attend the Accountabilities and Leadership Board to account for how they have offered

independent scrutiny and challenge to the partnership arrangements and the impact this has made. The Independent Chair will act as the future 'scrutineer' with regard to the effectiveness of Manchester's Safeguarding Partnership.

- 2.3.9 11th November 2019 the first Accountabilities and Leadership Board took place.

2.4 The Manchester Safeguarding Partnership Structure

See **appendix 1** for the agreed structure for the partnership

2.4.1 Accountabilities and Leadership Board

The three safeguarding partners from Greater Manchester Police, Manchester City Council, and Manchester Health Care Commissioning (CCG) will share the chairing of these meetings. The first Board meeting took place on 11th November 2019.

The Board will act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging other partners to implement local and national learning. It will take decisions and make commitments on policy, resourcing and practice matters holding their respective organisations to account on how they effectively participate and implement local arrangements

2.4.2 Safeguarding Executive Groups (Adults and Children)

The Executive Groups are chaired by the newly appointed Independent Chair. The Executive Groups will have a wider partnership membership and be responsible for the quality assurance and performance management of the adult and children's safeguarding systems in Manchester.

2.4.3 Practice Review Panels (Adults and Children)

These panels replace the previously known serious case review and safeguarding adult review subgroups. The Child and Adult Practice Review Panel will be chaired by the Assurance and Learning Lead (MSP) and vice chair from Manchester Health Care Commissioning. The Panels will be responsible for making recommendations to the Independent Chair on rapid review referrals regarding a serious incident or death of a child where there are serious safeguarding concerns and concerns regarding partnership working. The Panel will monitor ongoing legacy SCRs and other learning reviews and activities. The Panels aim is to ensure that lessons are learned and practice is developed across the multi-agency partnership.

2.4.4 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The Child Death Overview Panel will continue to review all child deaths and identify learning. The CDOP chair will be a Public Health Consultant and will provide quarterly updates to the Child Safeguarding Executive Group. CDOP will produce an annual report that will include a review of child deaths,

effectiveness of arrangements, lessons learnt and actions taken and the effectiveness of the wider child death review process.

2.4.5 Sub-groups

The work of Manchester Safeguarding Partnership is supported by three subgroups that address the work of the partnership across both children and adults. They will provide quarterly updates to the Executive Groups on progress and the Chairs be members of the Executive Groups. The chairs of the subgroup and Assurance and Learning lead will work closely to identify and progress cross cutting areas of work to ensure a consistent and joined up approach. The key sub-groups are as follows:

Complex Safeguarding Subgroup

This is chaired by the Strategic Director of Children's Services with Greater Manchester Police as vice chair.

The subgroup will ensure partnership members are actively engaged in and participate in the coordination and delivery of identified strategies and plans in relation to the exploitation of children and adults, modern day slavery and missing. The subgroup will also work in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership and seek assurance as to the effectiveness of the approach and arrangements for domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, honour based violence and radicalisation.

In addition, as noted in the summary section of this report, the complex safeguarding sub-group seeks has retained a focus on the exploitation of children and adults and in doing so will be seeking assurance and updates on multi-agency service planning and delivery. This will be informed by the findings of the LGA and Greater Manchester Peer Review and business planning for the Complex Safeguarding Hub.

Learning and Improvement Subgroup

This is chaired by head of safeguarding (social work) at Manchester Metropolitan University.

The subgroup is responsible for taking the learning from quality assurance activities, Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other learning activities to inform the delivery of a partnership learning and development offer in order to improve practice and outcomes to children and adults at risk of, or experiencing, harm. The subgroup will determine the multi-agency learning and development offer for the partnership and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of all learning activities on practice and outcomes for children, adults and their families.

The subgroup will work collaboratively with Locality Practice Fora and act as a conduit between the frontline workforce and the Executive Groups.

Quality Assurance Subgroup

This is chaired by Detective Chief Inspector at Greater Manchester Police.

The subgroup is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of Manchester Safeguarding Partnership by providing a clear line of sight to understanding the ways in which children and adults at risk of, or experiencing, harm are effectively protected.

To do this, the subgroup will analyse information from a range of sources to help understand Manchester's 'safeguarding story'. The key sources of information will include the development of a safeguarding performance framework - including key performance indicators from all agencies, and qualitative feedback from children, adults and professionals - findings from single and multi-agency audits, feedback from children, adults, their families and professionals etc.

The subgroup will also be responsible for monitoring the timely completion of action plans from safeguarding practice reviews and other learning activities.

- 2.4.6 **Locality Practice Fora** – North, Central and South Manchester Safeguarding Partnership intends to build on the positive work within children's locality practice forums to support frontline staff.

The Locality Practice Fora will be the direct link with frontline operational staff into the partnership decision making processes and the mechanism through which the partnership will influence and change frontline practice. This will also provide the opportunity to identify and replicate good practice as well as identification of emerging trends and themes.

Fora chairs will be members of the Learning and Improvement Subgroup.

- 2.4.7 The timetable for planned meetings is confirmed until April 2020 and dates are in the process of being confirmed for 2020 to 2021.

2.5 Strategic Partnerships

- 2.5.1 Designated members of the Accountabilities and Leadership Board will convene bi-annual meetings with the Chair of the Health and WellBeing, Children's Board and the Manchester Community Safety Partnership to ensure new and emerging safeguarding issues are shared and responded to effectively.

- 2.5.2 The revised Manchester Inter Board Protocol is aimed at facilitating good cross agency working to ensure effective inter board working.

2.6 Business Planning

- 2.6.1 The Manchester Safeguarding Board agreed its' priorities and business plan for 2018-19. This business plan has progressed and will cease in March 2020.

- 2.6.2 The new Manchester Safeguarding Partnership has agreed to have a smart and achievable number of focused priorities moving forward. This will be informed by two annual wider partnership activities that will help inform the business plan priorities moving forward

2.7 Completion of 'Legacy Reviews'

- 2.7.1 The statutory framework regarding Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) expects completion within 6 months. The transitional arrangements for Working Together 2018 require outstanding serious case reviews to be completed by September 2020.
- 2.7.2 In order to progress the above, a number of actions have been implemented.
- Two experienced reviewers - one in SCRs and one in SARs - have been commissioned to review cases and agree clear timelines for completion. At present it is envisaged that all legacy reviews (those that were started pre-September 2019) will be completed by March 2020 with a final deadline of September 2020. This allows time for any unexpected delays that may impact on the review process such as parallel criminal proceedings.
 - The SCRSG and SARSG have been replaced in the new structure with the Adult and Child Practice Review Panels. This work will ensure appropriate and timely referrals for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review or Adult Safeguarding Review are made and robustly screened to capture learning in a timely and focused way.
 - Work is in progress to ensure key aspects of process are quality assured including referrals notifying of a serious incident, the quality of agency submissions for screening in order to decide if a review is needed, the monitoring of the timescales for completing reviews, the overall quality of the final report, as well as the learning packs and action plans resulting from reviews. Work on this continues to progress. This is being supported by the work in progress on developing a new suite of documents to support the new processes based on local learning, that of early adopters and areas identified as good and outstanding practice.
 - Updated arrangements for contracting and commissioning of case reviews will ensure that appointments are made with reviewers who have the right experience and knowledge base. Contracts with individual reviewers will ensure expectations are explicit regarding timescales, quality of reports, a clear focus on learning and that reviewers provide an efficient and cost-effective processes.

2.8 MSP Register

The Independent Chair will be the responsible owner for recording and reporting on key business risk areas and actions required to mitigate high and medium level risk. This will be reported through the Executive Groups to the Accountabilities and Leadership Board

2.9 The Business Unit

- 2.9.1 The business unit that supports the work of the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership has a range of job roles with a singular and specific function which means there is limited flexibility in responding to work demands and a risk to business continuity in staff absence.
- 2.9.2 As the new arrangements have new expectations and requirements of the business unit it is essential that the unit is able to meet increase flexibility in order to provide a good quality consistent service. Currently job roles are being reviewed to ensure they are able to meet refreshed expectations and requirements of the new arrangements and ensure a consistent sustainable service.

2.10 Moving forward

Manchester Safeguarding Partnership arrangements will evolve and change as we learn from our experiences. The focus until March 2020 will be to embed further the new arrangements as detailed within the MSP publication. This will include:

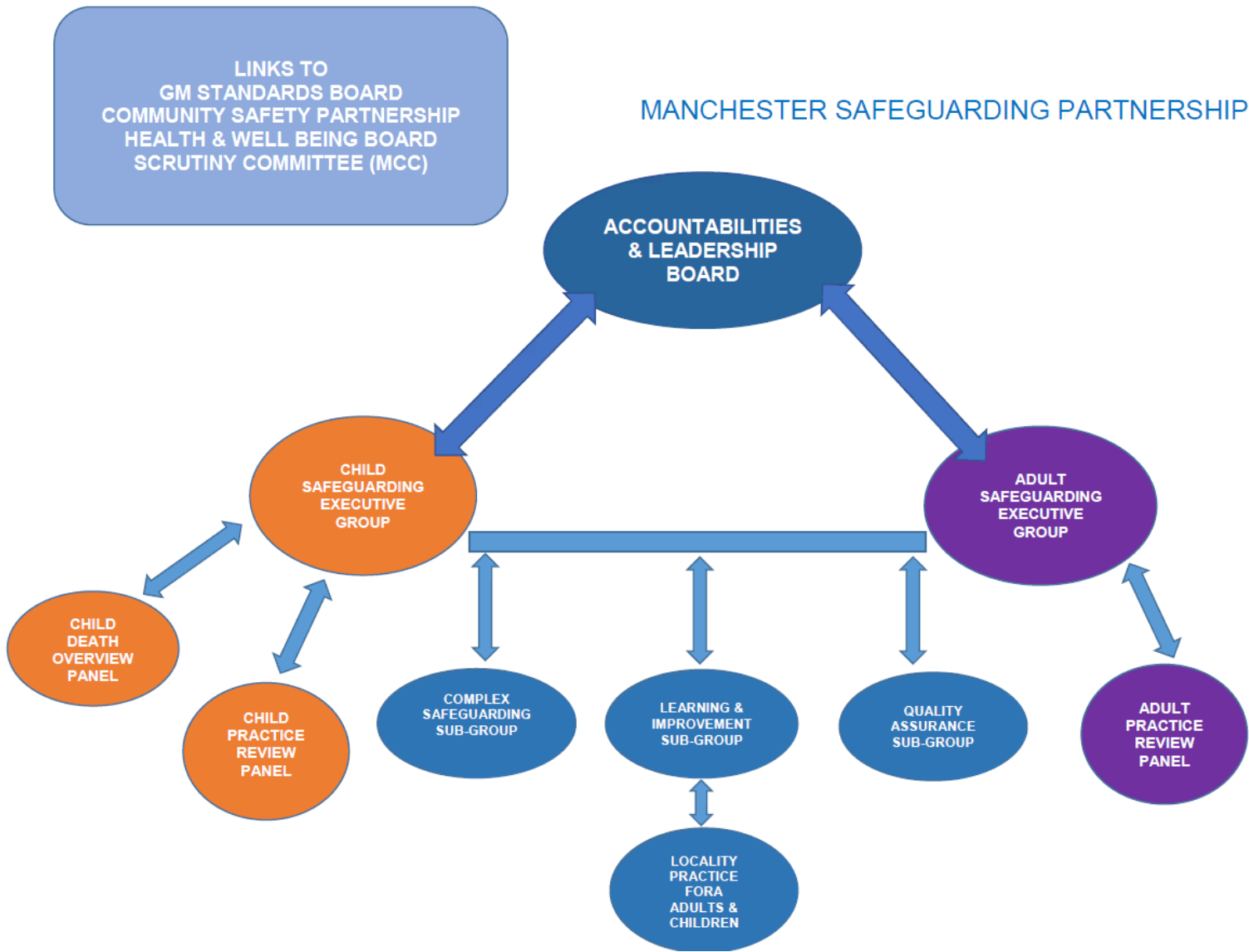
- A focus on completing legacy SCRs and SARs by March 2020 and ensuring momentum is maintained for newly agreed Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other learning reviews and activity
- Implement newly designed processes to support the whole review process through referral, screening and a proportionate and timely response to completing reviews
- Between September 2019 and March 2020 the new arrangements will monitor completion of the LSCB business plan and establish a MSP business plan for 2020-21
- A detailed review of budget income and expenditure opportunities
- Confirming the learning and development offer for the partnership and agreeing proposals for future delivery of learning and development. This will have a particular focus on embedding the learning from review and quality assurance work
- Confirming the partnership performance framework to support our understanding of the effectiveness and impact of the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership
- Developing the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership engagement approach for children, adults and their families
- Confirmation of the Inter Board protocol to confirm the Inter relationship across key strategic boards

2.11 Review of New Arrangements.

It is planned once there has been sufficient time for the new arrangements to be embedded within Manchester's partnerships, led by the Independent chair there will be a review as to the effectiveness of the leadership, assurance arrangements and impact on front-line.

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Appendix 1



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Appendix 2 - CSE Report presented to Scrutiny on 4th Sep 2019

1. This is a brief overview of activity undertaken in relation to complex safeguarding since the last update to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on the 4th September 2019.

2. Governance and Quality Assurance:

2.1 Subsequent to the September report, there has been a peer review undertaken by the Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding Team including partners from Barnardos, Research in Practice and GMP; this included a review of 4 young people's records, case discussions and focus groups with practitioners and partners. Overall, the feedback from this peer review was positive, with some learning identified in line with our existing self assessment and service plan. Some of the key headlines within the feedback included a recognition that strong strategic commitment had enabled a well resourced partnership team, recognition that the team is fully integrated and fostering a learning environment and noted the benefit of having a Trusted Relationships Clinical Psychologist embedded within the team, along with a health representative and Adult social worker. The feedback noted that the Missing from Home and Care response is well resourced and enables information sharing and oversight and that there were good, effective safeguarding operations running which include outreach in the community.

2.2 The refresh of the Children's Services Quality Framework has been completed and is now implemented; the Complex Safeguarding Hub is part of this Framework and the associated 'Closing the Loop' activity is overseen by the Strategic Head of Early Help. The Service Lead provides monthly reports to senior management as part of this framework covering a summary of quality of practice and evidence of impact. Additional quality assurance is sought via fortnightly joint governance with Police, Independent Return Interview (IRI) dip sampling and a monthly review of the most frequently reporting missing young people undertaken by the Strategic Lead for Complex Safeguarding. This is providing assurance on the quality of practice and activity and outcomes being achieved from the Complex Safeguarding Hub.

2.3 There is strengthened management oversight within the Complex Safeguarding Hub through the outlined quality assurance activity but also through the use of self assessment and practice observations with feedback provided to all workers using a 'high support, high challenge' model. This approach is also being used to support and develop managers within the Complex Safeguarding Hub. The quality of management oversight evident on children's records is improved, and there is a focus on outcome and impact within these. This focus is being driven through workshops and coaching sessions taking place regularly within the Complex Safeguarding Hub as well as within individual supervision, and is a key component of the service plan.

2.4 The Service Plan for the Complex Safeguarding Hub has been updated to consolidate learning from both peer reviews and from the audit activity, and this is reviewed monthly with the wider team. The Strategic Lead for Complex Safeguarding leads monthly development sessions with the social work team, which are currently focussed on quality of recording and how the impact of interventions is evidenced. To

support this work, the Strategic Lead is working with the Trusted Relationships Clinical Psychologist within the Hub to develop an outcomes framework for Complex Safeguarding. This will be informed by key research and existing outcome models. Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding are interested in supporting this work, and an initial version will be completed by mid December with a view to testing this and obtaining an independent evaluation of it by the end of January 2020.

2.5 The Hub continues to provide a core data and performance return to Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding and provides monthly data including children reported missing. Work is taking place with Liquid Logic and PRI to simplify reporting processes and allow a greater focus on the outcomes work being developed.

3. Practice and Impact

3.1 The Complex Safeguarding Hub continues to raise awareness and understanding of complex safeguarding issues. During the Week of Action in October 2019, social workers and police officers from the complex safeguarding hub attended all social work locality offices and neighbourhood Police Stations and provided briefings on indicators of exploitation and how to respond. Social workers are contributing to briefings for Manchester schools, and are supporting work with individual schools by offering bespoke briefings and support. The Strategic lead for Complex Safeguarding will be delivering three half day sessions across the city in December targeted at newly qualified social workers who will be or have recently started working in the city; this has been expanded to include any social worker to attend. These will include a session on key findings from a review of historic CSE cases, designed to ensure that current practice is informed by learning from the experiences and feedback of CSE survivors and to help equip our social workers across the localities with knowledge and skills to take a victim focused approach when working with young people.

3.2 Four Complex safeguarding workers have been trained to deliver the new Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding training which will be delivered across the partnership. The case formulation model developed within the Complex Safeguarding Hub has now been developed into a pilot and we are tracking the impact this has on positive outcomes for children.

3.3 There has been a review undertaken of the Achieving Change Together model which is being delivered to young people from within the Complex Safeguarding Hub and a new referral pathway and governance structure has been implemented. This should ensure we are well placed to build on the successes of the first cohort while responding to the learning taken from the first six months of delivery.

3.4 There continues to be a number of operations being managed from within the Complex Safeguarding Hub and in September there were successful sentences amounting to twenty five years handed to four perpetrators convicted of CSE related offences as a result of one of these operations. The Complex Safeguarding Hub proactively utilises its unique position as a central point of multi agency city wide intelligence to identify where there are particular locations or patterns of concern and to pull together a joined up response. We have recently begun work on a new operation which focuses on young people being targeted by adults for the purpose of

child sexual exploitation and there will be proactive work taking place to support victims and disrupt offenders. These joined up operations are key to disrupting and bringing to justice perpetrators of exploitation while ensuring there is appropriate trauma informed support in place for victims.

3.5 A key area of work for the Complex Safeguarding Hub over the next year will be the development of our contextual safeguarding response. We will be one of three Greater Manchester Local Authorities who will work alongside the Contextual Safeguarding Network to build on existing opportunities to support work within peer groups, schools, and community locations. This will build a contextual safeguarding approach into our delivery model. We recently met with colleagues in Greater Manchester to agree our focus with the Contextual Safeguarding Network and it is likely we will focus on testing our approach in relation to either a location or continuing our work with schools and focusing on assessments and interventions linked to a school or cluster of schools. In December Manchester social workers will receive training on contextual safeguarding and this will be followed up by training for partner agencies in 2020.

3.6 An important part of our work moving forward is to maximise opportunities to ensure young people's voices are heard and inform the delivery of the service provided. The Complex Safeguarding Hub currently receives feedback from young people during direct work sessions, return interviews and through some recently developed group work. We have supported a young person to provide direct feedback to reviewers during the LGA Peer review, and to contribute to an existing group run by The Children's Society. As part of the outcomes framework currently being developed, there will be also more formal options offered to young people who wish to provide feedback, including questionnaires with young people, an evaluation/ exit interview of the service they have received at the point of closure, and the opportunity to speak with a manager during an intervention to tell them what is going well and what could be improved in terms of the support they are receiving.

3.7 Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding have established a group to further develop the voice of young people and children which the Complex Safeguarding Hub will be contributing to. In order to ensure young people's voices are heard within our wider training and awareness raising work, a young person has recently worked with the Complex Safeguarding Hub and the Communications Team to produce an audio recording that will be used in training events and is his own account of the exploitation he has experienced.

4. Achieving Change Together Update

4.1 Achieving Change Together (ACT) is a strengths-based approach to adolescent support which is both research informed and co-designed by young survivors of CSE. A small caseload means practitioners can offer an intensive and flexible service to our young people, meeting them where they're at as opposed to expecting them to work to our agenda. The intervention is not time-limited which means practitioners have the capacity to work at the young person's pace which creates a strong platform for meaningful change.

4.2 The broad aim of ACT is to reduce the number of children placed outside of Manchester away from their homes, friends and communities. We want our young people to be safe and succeed in Manchester. Young people tell us that it is great relationships and small changes that build up to changing their future, put simply “CSE is the least of my problems”.

4.3 We have been delivering ACT from the Complex Safeguarding Hub for nine months and have seen some positive outcomes for young people. One of our young people has returned to school after missing over a year of education and is chasing her ambition to have her own business and with her creative talents, this is well within her reach. This young person is a survivor of sexual abuse and violence and uses the intensive offer from ACT to overcome challenges she faces getting back into education and has requested support to manage her anger and reduce her dependence on cannabis to manage traumatic memories. This young person has also used ACT support to engage with the medical support she needs to recover her health; she told her worker that she wants the changes she has made inside to be reflected on the outside. This young person has not been missing from home since starting on the ACT programme.

4.4 Two of our young people under ACT were nominated for the recent Manchester Achievement Awards for demonstrating their ability to overcome adversity and believe in themselves, taking charge of their own future. One of our young people has seen a reduction in Missing from Home episodes and his social worker is no longer considering an out of borough placement; we have also started letter contact with his family. Another of our young people who was a victim of CSE has returned from a placement to live with her family, had had no missing episodes and started work - this has given her the confidence to want to go back to education and finish her GCSEs. She has better relationships with her family members and has thanked her ACT social worker for being there for her when she needed it most.

4.5 Young people in Manchester have told us that with their ACT practitioners they feel listened to and want all social workers to practice in this way. The achievements listed above are hugely significant for young people who have often experienced trauma and adverse childhood experiences and represent positive outcomes which will benefit them in the future. Importantly, these young people are learning that they are able to achieve and experience success and developing the resilience and confidence to continue to do this.

5. Summary

5.1 Scrutiny members will note the continued development of the complex safeguarding hub; the ongoing work to disrupt and prevent exploitation and evidence of the impact of the relationship based approach and implementation of the ACT model in delivering good outcomes from children and young people.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 4 December 2019

Subject: Overview Report

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Summary

This report provides the following information:

- Recommendations Monitor
- Key Decisions
- Items for information
- Work Programme

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to discuss the information provided and agree any changes to the work programme that are necessary.

Contact Officer:

Name: Rachel McKeon
Position: Scrutiny Support Officer
Tel: 0161 234 4997
Email: rachel.mckeon@manchester.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

Background Documents (available for public inspection):

None

1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

This section of the report contains recommendations made by the Committee, responses to them, if they will be implemented, and if it will be, how this will be done.

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
5 September 2017	CYP/17/40 School Place Planning and Admissions	To request further information on the number of siblings who have been allocated places at different schools.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Michelle Devine, Interim Head of Access
6 November 2018	CYP/18/55 Promoting Inclusion and Preventing Exclusion	To request that information on the final destination of pupils who attended the Secondary PRU following permanent exclusion be circulated to Members of the Committee.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members by email.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education
8 January 2019	CYP/19/05 Youth and Play Services	To request the needs analysis ranking information for the 32 wards in Manchester.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members by email.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education
5 March 2019	CYP/19/15 School Governance Update	To note that the Committee has previously requested a briefing session on the new Ofsted Framework, to be arranged when the details of the Framework are known, and to request that an invitation to this be extended to all Members.	A new date for this briefing will be arranged for the New Year.	Rachel McKeon, Scrutiny Support Officer
19 June 2019	CYP/19/22 Manchester's Promoting Inclusion and Preventing	To request that the figures on fixed-term exclusions from the Secondary PRU this year be circulated to Members of the Committee.	Information on fixed-term exclusions from the PRU is included in the Update on School Exclusions report.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education

	Exclusion Strategy			
19 June 2019	CYP/19/22 Manchester's Promoting Inclusion and Preventing Exclusion Strategy	To note that the Executive Member for Children and Schools will circulate the date of the Strategy launch event and to request that Members also be provided with information on the national day of Rights Respecting Schools.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members by email.	Rachel McKeon, Scrutiny Support Officer
4 September 2019	CYP/19/32 Minutes	To arrange a visit for Members to Wetherby Young Offenders Institute (YOI) and Barton Moss Secure Care Centre and to note that the former will take place once the new governor is embedded in their role.	This recommendation has been completed.	Rachel McKeon, Scrutiny Support Officer
4 September 2019	CYP/19/34 Child Sexual Exploitation	To request that a visit to the Complex Safeguarding Hub be arranged for Committee Members.	This recommendation has been completed.	Rachel McKeon, Scrutiny Support Officer
9 October 2019	CYP/19/38 Minutes	To ask the Scrutiny Support Officer to circulate details of the visit to Wetherby YOI to Committee Members.	This recommendation has been completed.	Rachel McKeon, Scrutiny Support Officer
9 October 2019	CYP/19/39 Skills for Life	To request that the Council work to ensure that, as far as possible, all settings are involved in Skills for Life, including independent schools, and that officers look into how Skills for Life could be	A response to this recommendation will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education

		incorporated into the contracts when Our Children are placed in non-Council-owned residential settings.		
9 October 2019	CYP/19/40 Attainment Headline Outcomes 2019 (provisional)	To request that the presentation slides from the Ofsted Framework briefing be circulated to all Members of the Council.	The briefing has been postponed until the New Year. The presentation slides will be circulated once they are available.	Rachel McKeon, Scrutiny Support Officer
9 October 2019	CYP/19/40 Attainment Headline Outcomes 2019 (provisional)	To request that when the validated outcomes at primary and GCSE level are confirmed officers circulate a note to Committee Members with the headline information.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be circulated to Members by email.	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education/ Isobel Booler, Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND
6 November 2019	CYP/19/46 Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Centre	To support the proposals in the report wholeheartedly and to recommend to the Executive that the Council invest £1.1 million in capital to achieve this.	This recommendation and the relevant minutes have been sent to the City Treasurer and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources so that the Committee's views can be taken into consideration when a decision is made.	Rachel McKeon, Scrutiny Support Officer
6 November 2019	CYP/19/46 Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Centre	To recommend that officers look into how Ghyll Head could be used by families whose children are on the edge of care.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth)
6 November 2019	CYP/19/46 Ghyll Head Outdoor Education	To request that consideration be given as to how Members and the Friends of Ghyll Head can be engaged in the work of	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth)

	Centre	the Stakeholder Board.		
6 November 2019	CYP/19/47 Youth Strategy and Engagement	To request demographic information on the young people accessing youth services, particularly the youth hubs, including by ward.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth)
6 November 2019	CYP/19/48 Youth and Play Services - Young Manchester	To request that clear information on the availability of toilet facilities, for example, in park cafes, be included on signage in parks.	A response to this recommendation has been requested and will be reported back to the Committee via the Overview report.	Neil Fairlamb, Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth)

2. Key Decisions

The Council is required to publish details of key decisions that will be taken at least 28 days before the decision is due to be taken. Details of key decisions that are due to be taken are published on a monthly basis in the Register of Key Decisions.

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution is an executive decision, which is likely:

- To result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or
- To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the city.

The Council Constitution defines 'significant' as being expenditure or savings (including the loss of income or capital receipts) in excess of £500k, providing that is not more than 10% of the gross operating expenditure for any budget heading in the in the Council's Revenue Budget Book, and subject to other defined exceptions.

An extract of the most recent Register of Key Decisions, published on **22 November 2019** containing details of the decisions under the Committee's remit is included below. This is to keep members informed of what decisions are being taken and, where appropriate, include in the work programme of the Committee.

Register of Key Decisions:

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
Capital Investment in schools Ref: 2016/02/01D The approval of capital expenditure in relation to the creation of school places through new builds or expansions.	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 1st Mar 2019		Business Case	Amanda Corcoran, Director of Education a.corcoran@manchester.gov.uk
Youth Strategy- Youth and Play Commissioning (2019/09/03A) To agree the Youth Offer Strategy for the next three years and the allocation of funds to Young Manchester to enable the priorities of the strategy to be achieved.	Executive	16 Oct 2019		Youth Offer Strategy	Lisa Harvey Nebil lisa.harvey-nebil@manchester.gov.uk
Q20347 Consultant for EYES data Migration. 2019/04/25A Contract is to support Manchester City Council with the migration of their Education Management System away from Capita One towards the Liquidlogic EYES solution.	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 1st Jun 2019		Report and Recommendation	Jon Nickson j.nickson@manchester.gov.uk

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme – December 2019**

Wednesday 4 December 2019, 10.00am (Report deadline Friday 22 November 2019)				
Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
School Exclusions	To receive a report to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> citywide school exclusion performance data, including information on the reasons for exclusions. an update on the independent review of the use of fixed-term exclusions in the specialist provisions across the city for young people who experience Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH), including the Secondary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), and information on the destinations of pupils at the PRU. 	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Report	To receive the Annual IRO Report.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Julie Daniels	See May 2018 minutes
Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements	To receive an update report. To include an update on the CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) Review.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	See February 2019 minutes
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	-	Rachel McKeon	

Wednesday 8 January 2020, 10.00am (Report deadline Friday 20 December 2019) PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS				
Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director / Lead Officer	Comments
Budget 2020/21 – Officer proposals	The Committee will receive a report outlining the main changes to delivery and funding arrangements. Savings included as officer options to be debated.	Councillor Ollerhead	Carol Culley	There will be no detailed business plans for Directorates included in this report
Promoting Inclusion and Preventing Exclusion	To receive a further report, to include an update on the work to promote consistent, legally-compliant information-sharing at transition stages.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Supplementary Schools (to be confirmed)	To receive a further report on supplementary schools.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See November 2018 minutes
Overview Report			Rachel McKeon	

Items To Be Scheduled				
Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/ Lead Officer	Comments
Children's Services and the Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO)	To receive a presentation which provides an update on the development of the Children's Services Locality Model and partnership working with the MLCO.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	Invite Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee
Concealed Pregnancy	To receive a report which includes information on concealed pregnancy.	Councillor Bridges	David Regan/ Sarah Doran	See November 2019 minutes Invite Chair of

				Health Scrutiny Committee
Edge of Care	To request a further report in the new municipal year to update Members on the progress and impact of this work.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/ Sean McKendrick/ Julie Heslop	See February 2019 minutes
Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	To receive a report on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.	Councillor Bridges	David Regan/ Sarah Doran	See November 2019 minutes Invite Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee
Leaving Care Service	To receive a further report in 12 months' time.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Abu Siddique/Nick Whitbread	See October 2019 minutes
Population Health Needs of Manchester Children	To request an update report in 12 months' time.	Councillor Bridges	David Regan/Sarah Doran/Paul Marshall	See December 2018 minutes Invite Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee
Skills for Life	To request a progress report in a year's time.	Councillor Rahman	Amanda Corcoran	See October 2019 minutes Invite Chair of Economy Scrutiny Committee
Update on the Youth Justice Service	To request an update report in 12 months' time to include anonymised case studies and information on the issues that Members raised at the meeting on 17	Councillor N Murphy	Paul Marshall/ Marie McLaughlin	See July 2019 minutes Invite Chair of

	July 2019, including children with SEND and Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children in the Youth Justice system.			Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee
Youth and Play Services - Young Manchester	To recommend that a further report be brought back to Members in November 2020, which focuses on qualitative and quantitative data, evidence of impact, outcomes and young people's feedback relating to the Youth and Play Fund 2020/2022.	Councillor Rahman	Fiona Worrall/Lisa Harvey-Nebil	See November 2019 minutes
Regular items				
Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Report	To receive the Annual IRO Report.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/Julie Daniels	
Early Years	To receive a quarterly update.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	See 2 January 2018 minutes
Looked After Children (LAC) and Corporate Parenting (Annual Independent Reviewing Officer Report)	To receive an annual report on the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel. To include an update on recent developments in respect of LAC and corporate parenting. To include the future role/best use of existing children's homes including best practice within other local authorities and models of practice.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall	See May 2018 minutes
Manchester Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB)	To receive the MSCB's Annual Report. To include the report of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall / Julia Stephens-Row	
Proxy Indicators	To receive quarterly presentations of the proxy indicators outlined in the report considered by the Committee in June 2018 and to request that these presentations also include information on school attendance and exclusions.	Councillor Bridges	Paul Marshall/ Sean McKendrick/ Amanda Corcoran	See June 2018 minutes
School Attendance and Attainment	To receive regular reports regarding attainment and attendance. Future reports to include:	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	Next report – March 2020 (TBC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information on the use of flexi-schooling in Manchester and on children who are not included in the school attendance figures because they are waiting for a school place or are being home schooled • information on the performance of pupils with SEND in special schools compared to those in mainstream schools and further information on the progress and outcomes for children from ethnic groups which are currently performing less well, including white British children • Wythenshawe Education Board and the work taking place to support the four secondary schools in Wythenshawe and improve the educational outcomes for the pupils, including any good practice which can be shared with other areas of the city • what percentage of Manchester schools are achieving the national average results or better and what is being done to support schools which aren't achieving this • further details on the population-related issues facing the city's schools, including population growth, international new arrivals and the traveller population. 			See 30 January 2018 and March 2019 and October 2019 minutes
School Governance	To receive a yearly report on school governance.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	To receive regular reports on SEND.	Councillor Bridges	Amanda Corcoran	

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